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JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS
CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA
Saipan, Mariana Islands, 96950

April 4, 1972

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The Honorable Franklin Haydn Williams
The President's Personal Representative
on Micronesian Status Negotiations
Koror, Palau

Dear Ambassador Williams:

At the conclusion of your presentation today of the U.S. position on the question of authority in the fields of foreign affairs and defense, you asked that we present our response. In considering this question, we find that it is impossible effectively to reply to the U.S. proposals before having information with respect to the entire package and particularly the position with regard to the key question of termination.

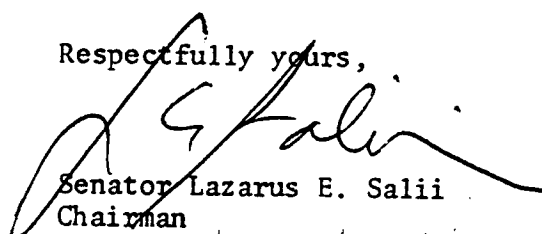
As you will recall, we mentioned in our opening statement that the Micronesian Delegation regards this question of termination as being of paramount importance. This fact is underscored by the scope and breadth of the U.S. requests of full authority in the fields of foreign affairs and defense. It is, as you will recognize, impossible for either side at this stage to predict with any confidence the variety of problems and instances in which issues of foreign relation or defense may be directly or indirectly involved. In today's world, given the freedom and ease of communication and transportation, and particularly in the light of Micronesia's strategic situation, it would be possible for the U.S. to maintain that foreign affairs or defense issues are involved in virtually any transaction between Micronesia and a third country. Under these circumstances, it is essential that any compact or other agreement between the U.S. and Micronesia provide for a degree of flexibility that would permit the modification of provisions that prove in practice unduly to restrict the freedom of Micronesia to engage in useful relationships with other countries. It is also possible that circumstances may indicate that the entire concept underlying such compact may become inappropriate and require revocation and the development of some substitute relationship.

The Honorable Franklin Haydn Williams
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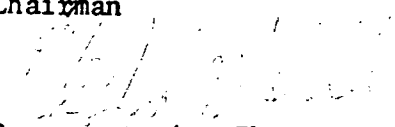
In addition to the basic issue of termination, the remaining questions of financial support and measures for transition to a sovereign status for the state of Micronesia also have implications for the issues of responsibility in the areas of foreign relations and defense.

Rather than endeavoring to respond at this time in isolation to the specific proposals in the fields of foreign affairs and defense we, therefore, request that the U. S. Delegation provide us at your earliest convenience with your position on the remaining issues. Because of its overriding significance, we would request that the next presentation be on the issue of termination.

Respectfully yours,



Senator Lazarus E. Salii
Chairman



Representative Ekpap W. Silk
Co-Chairman