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JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS

CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA
Saipan, Mariana Islands, 96950



Lazarus Salii, Chairman
Ekapap Silk, Co-chairman

April 13, 1972

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

Dear Mr. Ambassador :

Permit me to explore by means of this letter a few details which remain to be resolved between the two delegations.

First, the Joint Committee has received an interim report from its subcommittee which met early this morning with a similar subcommittee from the United States delegation. The report of the subcommittee indicates that negotiating a specific document of agreement is at this point a difficult task at best. At worst, it is a meaningless exercise which can only serve to cause the duplication of effort, since our two delegations will in the future have to negotiate the specific language of the Compact of Free Association. Accordingly, with a view to saving both delegations this additional needless effort, we would recommend that no further meetings of the subcommittees be scheduled here in Koror.

Our proposed Summary of Agreement, which has, of course, been made a part of the record, must stand as our view of the agreements between the parties which have been arrived at through our negotiations at Hana and Koror. This proposed summary is, of course, only our own statement and does not necessarily reflect your delegation's position on the matters contained therein. By the same token, it should be regarded only as a summary, and not as the full expression of our delegations' views, which can be obtained only from careful scrutiny of that material which appears in the complete record.

Secondly, there is the subject of a joint communique. We acknowledge the receipt of your proposed draft of a joint communique, and have forwarded to you our revised draft of this document. We remain hopeful that you will find this draft acceptable and agree to its release as soon as possible.

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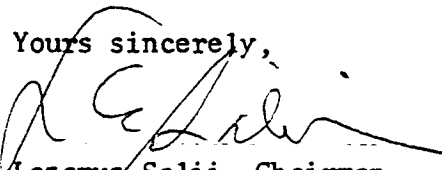
You should be informed, however, that in further fulfillment of our duty to keep the people of Micronesia informed as to the progress which has been made at these negotiations, we have prepared and will shortly release our own communique which will serve as a summary of the events which have taken place here at Koror.

Thirdly, because of the mandate of the Joint Committee to negotiate on behalf of the Micronesian people as a whole, we are unable to agree to the inclusion of any material relating to the separate statement of position which has been transmitted to you by the Mariana Islands delegation on the Joint Committee. You should be further informed that we have no intention of including mention of such material either in the Report of the Joint Committee or in the form of a news release. We recognize, however, the importance of this matter to the United States delegation, and that at your initiative, you may desire to make public such material.

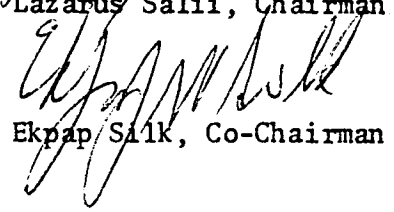
Fourthly, we believe it is desirable to agree upon a date on which the official transcript of this Round of Negotiations should be released. We recognize the importance of rapid and accurate dissemination of this material. However, we are limited by the requirement that we must first report to the Congress of Micronesia, under whose mandate we operate. The preparation and printing of this Report is anticipated to take approximately six weeks. We therefore propose that our delegations agree not to release to the public a transcript of this Fourth Round of Negotiations before June 1, 1972.

Fifthly, given the fact that there remains nothing more in the way of negotiations which should be made a matter of record in Koror, we see no need for further meetings of the two delegations in this Round of Negotiations. We greatly appreciate the cooperative spirit in which the United States delegation has approached this Round of Negotiations, and look forward to a continuation of this spirit at our next Round of Negotiations, and to the rapid completion of agreement between the two countries.

Yours sincerely,



Lazarus Salii, Chairman



Ekpap Salk, Co-Chairman