

1972 TT Council Who?

5/26/72

MR. PRESIDENT AND HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL:

I BRING YOU GREETINGS FROM THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT, AND BEST WISHES FOR SUCCESSFUL DELIBERATIONS IN YOUR CURRENT SESSION.

I AM INDEED VERY GRATEFUL FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO APPEAR BEFORE YOU TO PRESENT AN ISSUE WHICH IS VERY CLOSE AND MOST IMPORTANT TO OUR PEOPLE: THE FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS OF THE MARIANA ISLANDS.

THE MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT, TOGETHER WITH THE OTHER FIVE DISTRICTS WHICH COMPRISE THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS, WERE PLACED UNDER THE LEGAL JURISDICTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS. SINCE THE DATE OF THE TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED NATIONS, JULY 18, 1947, THE UNITED STATES HAS EXERCISED DIRECT SUPERVISION OVER THE TRUST TERRITORY, AS THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY. UNDER THE TERMS OF THE TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT, THE UNITED STATES IS OBLIGATED, AMONG OTHER THINGS, TO PROMOTE THE INHABITANTS OF THE TRUST TERRITORY TOWARD SELF-GOVERNMENT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FREELY-EXPRESSED WISHES OF THE PEOPLE CONCERNED. THIS PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION, IS, I FEEL, THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THE ENTIRE TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT, AND IT IS THAT SUBJECT UPON WHICH I HAVE COME TO SPEAK TO YOU TODAY. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION AS RECOGNIZED BY THE UNITED NATIONS, AND

01-02883

MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT, IT IS MY SOLEMN OBLIGATION TO ADVISE THIS COUNCIL OF THE POLITICAL ASPIRATIONS OF OUR PEOPLE, AND OF THE LONG QUEST FOR THE FULFILLMENT OF THOSE ASPIRATIONS.

OVER THE COURSE OF 451 YEARS, OUR PEOPLE HAVE EXPERIENCED THE DOMINANCE OF FOUR FOREIGN POWERS IN MICRONESIA. BY VIRTUE OF ANNEXATION OR CONQUEST, AND WITHOUT OUR CONSULTATION OR CONSIDERATION, OUR HOMES AND LIVES WERE ABRUPTLY CHANGED.

THE FIRST WESTERN VISITOR TO MICRONESIA, FERDINAND MAGELLAN, CLAIMED THE ISLANDS IN THE NAME OF SPAIN IN 1521. SPAIN RULED MICRONESIA FOR ALMOST 380 YEARS. AT THE END OF THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR IN 1899, MOST OF ETHNIC MICRONESIA, AND ALL THE ISLANDS WHICH NOW COMPRISE THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS, WERE SOLD TO GERMANY. OUR NEIGHBORING ISLAND OF GUAM, INHABITED BY OUR CHAMORRO COUSINS, WAS CEDED BY SPAIN TO THE UNITED STATES. THE GERMANS, TOO, WERE UNABLE TO HOLD MICRONESIA DUE TO INCREASING MILITARY PRESSURES AND DEMANDS IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD. AS GERMANY MOVED OUT, JAPAN MOVED IN. SHE LATER LEGITIMATIZED HER CLAIM TO MICRONESIA THROUGH A MANDATE GRANTED BY THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS. MICRONESIA REMAINED AS A JAPANESE MANDATE UNTIL THE CLOSING DAYS OF WORLD WAR II, WHEN THESE ISLANDS WERE WRESTED, INCH BY INCH, AT TREMENDOUS COST, FROM THE JAPANESE BY THE FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES. WITHIN THREE YEARS THEREAFTER, THE UNITED STATES HAD CONCLUDED AND SIGNED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS A TRUSTEESHIP

AGREEMENT FOR MICRONESIA. THIS TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT HAS BEEN IN EFFECT SINCE 1947, OR FOR ALMOST 25 YEARS.

IT IS WELL TO POINT OUT AGAIN THAT ALL THIS FOREIGN DOMINATION IN MICRONESIA-DOMINATION OVER OUR LAND, OUR PEOPLES, WAS ACCOMPLISHED WITHOUT CONSULTATION OR ACQUIESCENCE BY THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA. NEVER WAS THERE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR PEOPLE TO HAVE THE OPTION TO SPEAK OUT ON THE IMPORTANT MATTERS WHICH FACED THEM, SUCH AS THE NATURE OF THEIR GOVERNMENT, THE DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR COUNTRY, AND THEIR FUTURE.

THE UNITED NATIONS HAS ALWAYS RECOGNIZED THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT OF ALL PEOPLE TO DETERMINE THEIR POLITICAL FUTURE. THE PROVISIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER, WHICH ARE REITERATED IN THE TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT, MAKE IT VERY PLAIN THAT ALL PEOPLE HAVE THE RIGHT TO RUN THEIR OWN LIVES, AND TO HAVE AND BE FREE TO EXERCISE THE FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS AND RIGHTS WHICH ARE THE PROPERTY OF EVERY MAN.

OVER THE MANY YEARS OF FOREIGN DOMINATION, OUR PEOPLE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXAMINE THE POLITICAL AND SOCIAL SYSTEMS OF EACH OF OUR FOREIGN RULERS. DURING ALL THOSE YEARS, WE HAVE HAD A CHANCE TO OBSERVE CLOSELY THE SYSTEMS OF THE ADMINISTRATOR, AND HOW THEY REFLECTED THEMSELVES IN THE QUALITY OF OUR LIVES, ESPECIALLY WITH RELATION TO HUMAN RIGHTS. THE SPANISH ADMINISTRATION BROUGHT US ROMAN CATHOLICISM, WHICH TODAY IS THE FAITH PROFESSED BY VIRTUALLY ALL OF THE INHABITANTS OF THE MARIANAS, AND WELL OVER HALF OF ALL OF THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA.

OK C2885

GERMANY CONCENTRATED AS MUCH ON COMMERCE IN MICRONESIA AS THE SPANISH DID ON RELIGION. THE JAPANESE ADMINISTRATION ACHIEVED NOTABLE SUCCESSES IN THE FIELD OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ALTHOUGH IT IS TRUE THAT MOST OF THIS DEVELOPMENT ACCRUED DIRECTLY TO THE BENEFIT OF JAPANESE FIRMS AND INDIVIDUAL ENTREPRENEURS. THE LOCAL PEOPLE WERE AFFORDED ONLY A VERY LIMITED OPPORTUNITY TO ADVANCE THEIR EDUCATIONS LEVEL, AND HUMAN RIGHTS AND DIGNITY WERE PRIVILEGES RESERVED EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE JAPANESE. THE COMING OF THE AMERICANS USHERED IN A NEW ERA FOR US. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN FOUR CENTURIES, WE COULD ENJOY THE FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS TO WHICH ALL MEN ARE ENTITLED. AMERICA BROUGHT US ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, EDUCATION, AND HEALTH CARE. MORE IMPORTANT, AMERICA TAUGHT US HOW TO LIVE AS FREE MEN. THUS, AFTER SO MANY YEARS, WE HAVE COME TO BEGIN TO SEE THE DAY WHEN WE WILL BE ABLE TO RUN OUR OWN GOVERNMENT. AS A DIRECT RESULT, WE ARE BEGINNING TO TAKE OUR OBLIGATION TO OURSELVES AND OUR PEOPLE MORE SERIOUSLY: OUR OBLIGATION TO ARRIVE AT A SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT WHICH WILL BE MOST BENEFICIAL TO OUR PEOPLE; A GOVERNMENT THAT WILL CONTINUE TO ASSURE THE FUNDAMENTAL EQUALITY OF ALL MEN AND PROTECT AND PRESERVE THE OTHER FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS.

OUR PEOPLE, AFTER A QUARTER-CENTURY OF AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION, HAVE COME TO KNOW THE AMERICAN SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT. THE CONCEPT OF DEMOCRACY HAS BECOME VERY IMPORTANT TO US. AS A RESULT, WE HAVE BEEN VERY ACTIVE IN EXPRESSING OUR WISHES AS TO THE FORM WHICH OUR FUTURE GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE. WE WANT A

01 02886

POLITICAL SYSTEM WHICH WILL INCORPORATE US INTO THE POLITICAL UNION WITH THE UNITED STATES.

FOR MORE THAN A DECADE, OUR PEOPLE, THROUGH THEIR DULY ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES, ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS, HAVE EXPRESSED BOTH FORMALLY AND INFORMALLY, TO THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND TO THE UNITED NATIONS, THROUGH PETITIONS, AND THROUGH PLEBISCITES, OUR STRONG DESIRE THAT THE MARIANAS BECOME A PART OF THE UNITED STATES. THE PLEBISCITES WHICH HAVE BEEN HELD IN THE MARIANAS PROBABLY ARE THE BEST INDICATORS OF POPULAR SENTIMENT. IN THE MOST RECENT DISTRICT-WIDE PLEBISCITE, CONDUCTED IN 1969 BY THE MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE, THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS HAVE AGAIN VOTED

FOR CLOSE POLITICAL UNION WITH THE UNITED STATES.

A 1971 SURVEY, CONDUCTED AFTER THE COMMONWEALTH OFFER HAD BEEN MADE, REAFFIRMED THIS RESULT.

AT THIS STAGE, IT MUST BE POINTED OUT THAT WE DO NOT AS YET HAVE ANY SPECIFIC POLITICAL ARRANGEMENT IN MIND. THE POSSIBILITIES ARE, OF COURSE, LARGE. THEY INCLUDE REINTEGRATION WITH THE UNINCORPORATED UNITED STATES TERRITORY OF GUAM, INCORPORATION AS A SEPARATE TERRITORY, ATTAINING A COMMONWEALTH STATUS, AND OTHER POSSIBLE ARRANGEMENTS. IT IS OUR INTENTION TO ARRIVE AT A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS OF OUR POLITICAL FUTURE THROUGH THOROUGH STUDIES OF THE AVAILABLE ALTERNATIVES, THROUGH DISCUSSIONS AMONG OUR PEOPLE, AND EVENTUALLY, BY FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES. WE WOULD LIKE TO ASSURE

01 02887

THIS COUNCIL THAT, WHATEVER THE NATURE OF OUR FUTURE ASSOCIATION WITH THE UNITED STATES MAY BE, IT WILL PROVIDE FOR AS MUCH SELF-GOVERNMENT AS IS POSSIBLE WITHIN THE SYSTEM. AND IT WILL COME INTO EFFECT ONLY AFTER A SOVEREIGN ACT OF SELF-DETERMINATION OF THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS, HAVING VOTED AND APPROVING IT.

IN CONCLUSION, WE IN THE MARIANA ISLANDS ARE MOST APPRECIATIVE TO THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL FOR ITS LONG AND DEDICATED ASSISTANCE AND GUIDANCE DURING THESE MANY YEARS, AND ESPECIALLY IN THE PAST FEW YEARS WHEN OUR POLITICAL MATURITY WAS IN ITS FORMATIVE STAGES. ALL OF US WOULD AGAIN LIKE TO EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE NOT ONLY TO THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL, BUT TO EACH AND EVERY MEMBER OF THE UNITED NATIONS, FOR GUARANTEEING TO US OF THE INHERENT RIGHTS OF ALL MEN EVERYWHERE TO CHOOSE THEIR OWN POLITICAL DESTINY.

THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS HAVE OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED THAT THEY ARE READY TO EXERCISE THEIR BASIC RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION. WE HAVE EXPLORED THE POSSIBILITY OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TOWARD A NEW AND GREAT FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS FOR OUR PEOPLE, AND WE HAVE RECEIVED AN ENCOURAGING REPLY TO THAT EXPLORATION. WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT THESE NEGOTIATIONS CAN TAKE PLACE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, SO THAT THE MATTER OF OUR FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS CAN BE RESOLVED. I AM CONFIDENT THAT OUR FUTURE PROMISES A NEW AND BETTER GOVERNMENT IN POLITICAL UNION WITH THE UNITED STATES, AND, AS A RESULT, A NEW AND

OK 02888

BETTER WAY OF LIFE FOR OUR PEOPLE.

AGAIN, MR. PRESIDENT, LET ME EXPRESS MY THANKS TO YOU AND
TO THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL FOR ALLOWING US TO APPEAR BEFORE
YOU TODAY. THANK YOU.

02889