

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Old Exec. Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C.

June 9, 1972

Senator Lazarus Salii
Chairman, Joint Committee
on Future Status
Congress of Micronesia

Dear Lazarus:

Thank you for your prompt answer to my letter of May 19, 1972. The opening of our Washington talks on the 12th of July is acceptable. We will certainly be looking forward to your arrival and to a continuation of the negotiations.

Using the Joint Communique signed at Koror as a point of departure, I hope we can formalize the agreements which we have reached in principle into the more precise language of a draft Compact, covering the control of laws and land, foreign affairs and defense responsibilities and provisions for termination.

Our discussion in July on the question of finance will depend on how far your delegation will be prepared to go in answering the questions we raised at Hana and Koror. Before any understanding on levels of future budgetary support can be reached we will have to know a great deal more than we do now. We will have to have your views on what U.S. Federal Programs and Services will be requested upon the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement. These requirements will have to be costed out including the projected expenses and revenues of your new government before we can begin to think about any specific levels of funding and the over-all financial obligations which the U.S. would be willing to undertake under the terms of the Compact.

The U.S. Delegation will also be prepared to discuss further the question of a smooth and orderly transition from Trusteeship to full self-government. As I said at Palau, transitional steps will, to a very large extent depend upon internal Micronesian initiatives and decisions with respect to the nature, structure, and divisions of authority within your future government, and it was for this reason that the U.S. proposed at Koror the early calling of a broadly representative Constitutional Convention.

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Without knowing what kind of successor government you will have it will be difficult to map out an orderly and effective plan for transition. That is why we continue to believe that the calling of a Constitutional Convention is a necessary first step in the transitional process. I would like to assure you again that the USG will cooperate and will provide Micronesia with whatever assistance it may need and desire as it begins the important task of drafting its future Constitution.

Assuming that we will be successful in translating agreements in the areas covered in the Koror joint communique into the language of a Compact, we will still have a number of substantive issues to resolve before a first draft Compact can be finished. I have already mentioned finance. My final statement at Koror pointed out that our differences in this area may be substantial and that it appeared from your presentations and proposals that we were far apart in our thinking with respect to the amounts and rational for U.S. funding of your future government.

I do hope that these and other differences can be narrowed in July. In order to expedite our further deliberations, I will be sending you under separate cover a list of some of the important issues and questions which we hope your delegation will give thought to before the opening of the July talks.

In addition to working toward a draft Compact in July, we have other important tasks ahead of us and I should re-emphasize that before the United States can sign a final Compact, a number of supplementary agreements must be pre-negotiated. These include the arrangements for U.S. military use of designated Micronesian lands, a jurisdictional agreement governing the stationing of U.S. forces in Micronesia in the post Trusteeship period and a defense agreement which would go into effect in the event of termination.

All of this means that we will have a full agenda for our next meeting. If you think it would be desirable I would be happy to have several meetings with you and Ekpap during the first week in July here in Washington. This would give us an opportunity for a preliminary exchange of views on the agenda and for jointly planning the talks to make them as productive as possible. One suggestion which I have already made is the possibility that our work can be expedited by assigning some tasks to joint study and sub-negotiating groups.

I look forward to your reply to this invitation. I personally feel that it would be most worthwhile if we could meet in advance of the July talks.

We will be happy to assist you in making the necessary administrative arrangements and logistics for your delegation and Frank Crawford will be in touch with Carl Heine about these matters.

With warm regards, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Haydn

Haydn Williams
The President's Personal Representative
for Micronesian Status Negotiation