

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Old Executive Office Building
Room 361
Washington, D. C. 20506
October 27, 1972

The Honorable Lazarus Salii
Chairman, Joint Committee
on Future Status
Congress of Micronesia
Saipan, Mariana Islands, 96950

Dear Lazarus,

Mary Vance Trent has passed along the information that you are now in Palau and will remain there until after the election. I know that these must be busy days for you.

After many months of waiting, action has finally been taken on Art Hummel's replacement. As you may remember, Art returned to the State Department to replace James Wilson who was then Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and Pacific Affairs. Mr. Wilson was not in good health at the time but has now been given a clean bill from the doctors. Yesterday the White House announced that Mr. Wilson will become the Deputy U.S. Representative for the Micronesian Status Negotiations, effective November 1, 1972. He is a very able and experienced foreign service officer and I look forward to working with him and to introducing him to you. Bill Crowe will continue as the Director of the Office for Micronesian Status Negotiations and will continue to be my principal advisor on Defense matters.

At our last meeting we discussed informally the possibility of you and Ekpap coming to the U.S. for consultations with Paul Warnke and for some informal background discussions with me prior to the next meeting of our full delegations. Is this still a possibility? I would think that such a meeting could be quite useful and I can assure you that I would be available during the latter part of November if you and Ekpap could come to Washington, or if you prefer, to San Francisco. I will look forward to hearing from you on this matter.

I am presently thinking very seriously about your suggestion for holding the 7th round before the COM convenes in January. You no doubt are aware that Washington is rather hectic at this time with the coming elections and Vietnam developments. As a result it is very difficult right now to get actions through the bureaucracy rapidly. Nevertheless, I am hopeful that we will be able to get

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our work through the governmental process in time to permit a meeting in December.

In turn, we are drawing together plans for conducting a land survey in Palau. I hope to have our schedule firmed up shortly and will of course want to coordinate this visit with you and your Committee. The dates of the land survey may depend in part on our plans for the seventh round. I would hope very much that you and Roman could be in Palau when the land survey teams are there. I sincerely believe that you could greatly facilitate their work and that both sides could substantially benefit from working together.

Let me close by saying how much I appreciated your post Barber's Point comments to the press, refuting the headlines and newspaper stories that the talks had been aborted as a result of serious disagreements.

With best wishes to you and Tina and the girls, I remain,

Sincerely,

Franklin Haydn Williams
The President's Personal Representative
For Micronesian Status Negotiations