

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

November 15, 1972

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Sen. Lazarus Salil, Chairman  
Rep. Ekpap Silik, Co-Chairman

Sen. Tosiwo Nakayama  
Sen. Andon Amaralch  
Sen. Bailey Oltor  
Sen. Edward DLG. Pangelinan  
Sen. Petrus Tun  
Sen. Roman Tmetuchi  
Sen. Isaac Lanwi  
Rep. Oltor Paul  
Rep. John Mangefel  
Rep. Herman Q. Guerrero

The Honorable Franklin Haydn Williams  
The President's Personal Representative  
on Micronesian Status Negotiations  
Office for Micronesian Status Negotiation  
Old Exec. Office Building  
THE WHITE HOUSE  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Ambassador Williams:

This letter will respond to your most recent letter and to follow up on my dispatch to you dated today.

I want to explore with you certain possibilities and alternatives which I feel are worthy of our consideration. Both Ekpap and I feel that the next round of talks should commence before the next session of the Congress of Micronesia in January.

In view of the forthcoming general session of the Congress of Micronesia in January and the importance of the Compact of Free Association, it is my feeling that our two delegations should make every effort to complete the Draft Compact and have it presented to Congress in January. In this connection, my delegation is prepared and ready to discuss the issues of finance, termination and the other remaining aspects of the Draft Compact. I would suggest that our two delegations strive to have one single overriding objective at the next round, and that is to complete the Draft Compact. I hope your delegation will be ready to discuss all the remaining aspects of the Draft Compact.

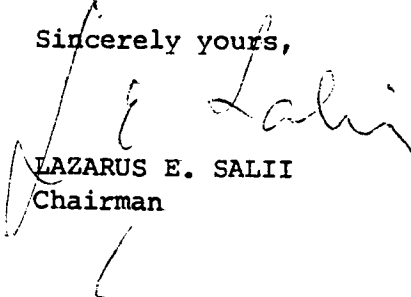
It is my feeling that we can no longer delay the next round of negotiations because the status issue has become very important not only to the Congress of Micronesia, but also to the people of Micronesia. It will take two months for the Congress of Micronesia to complete its regular business early next year and by the time we are ready to resume discussion on Micronesia's political status, it will be close to the middle of next year.

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With this in mind, I hope you can let me know your thoughts on it at your earliest convenience, the possibility of having the next round of status negotiations held either in Micronesia or in Guam. I am suggesting this in view of the fact that many members of my Committee are also members of other committees of Congress and it will be extremely difficult for all of us to travel as far away as Washington, D.C. If this suggestion is agreeable with you, then we will proceed to plan on it. In the meantime, I look forward to hearing your response.

Sincerely yours,

  
LAZARUS E. SALII  
Chairman

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