

TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

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FROM	INFORMATION	CLASSIFICATION	ORIGINATOR
HICOMTER PACIS SAIPAN	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX USUN NEW YORK AMEMBASSY CANBERRA	UNCLASSIFIED	STATUS LNO TRENT
TO		DATE TIME GROUP	CLEARANCES
SECSTATE COMTWELVE SAN FRANCISCO JCS/SECDEF CINCPAC WHITE HOUSE CINCPACREP GUAM/ TPI	PRECEDENCE		HC DHC AD CS PA R&D AG AGR ASU AUD B&F COM CDO EC E&C ED IO LPC MIO MS PAO PER P&S PW SPU TS

FROM STATUS LNO 16

PASS TO DEPARTMENT INTERIOR FOR OSN (ACTION) AND DASTA (INFO)
STATE FOR EA, IO/UNP, ~~XX~~ L/UNA
COMTWELVE FOR AMB WILLIAMS
DEFENSE FOR OSD/ISA
WHITE HOUSE FOR HOLDRIDGE (NSC)
JUSTICE FOR OLC (MARCUSE)
CANBERRA FOR POL

SUBJECT: SEN TMETUHL URGES ATTENTION TO STATUS QUESTION

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF ROUSING SPEECH DELIVERED IN SENATE
TODAY JAN 25 BY SEN ROMAN TMETUHL (PALAU) IN PRESENCE OF PALAUAN
DELEGATION SEATED IN GALLERY (SPEAKER LUII, AND MEMBERS OF PALAU
DISTRICT LEGISLATURE ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ KOSHIBA AND BAULES, AND KOROR MAYOR
FRITZ):

BEGIN TEXT

mvt 1/25/73

LNO *[Signature]*

REMARKS BY SENATOR TIEFUCHEL
January 24, 1973

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BEGIN TEXT

MR. PRESIDENT:

NOW THAT WE HAVE STARTED IN OUR FIFTH CONGRESS, I FEEL THAT WE MUST ASK OURSELVES ONE FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION. WHY ARE WE HERE? SOME MAY ANSWER TO APPROPRIATE MONEY OR TO CONSIDER BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS ON VARIOUS SUBJECTS. TO ME THIS IS ONLY PART OF THE ANSWER. OUR MOST IMPORTANT REASON FOR BEING HERE IS TO PROVIDE LEADERSHIP TO ALL OF OUR PEOPLE IN DETERMINING THEIR FUTURE STATUS.

I FEEL THAT WE HAVE NOT DONE THE JOB WE COULD HAVE AND SHOULD HAVE DONE. ONE RESULT OF OUR NOT PROVIDING THE NECESSARY LEADERSHIP BY FACING THE ISSUE OF OUR FUTURE STATUS, IS THAT THE MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT HAS TAKEN STEPS TO SEPARATE FROM US. WHEN THE QUESTION OF THE SEPARATION OF THE MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT AROSE, WE HAD SEVERAL COURSES OF ACTION. WE COULD HAVE INITIATED DISCUSSIONS WITH THE LEADERS OF THIS DISTRICT TO CLARIFY THE ISSUES THAT APPARENTLY SEPARATED US AND TO REACH A DEFINITE AGREEMENT ON OUR FUTURE RELATIONS. OR, WE COULD HAVE IGNORED THE QUESTION. UNFORTUNATELY, WE CHOSE THE LATER COURSE. THAT, TO ME, IS NOT PROVIDING LEADERSHIP. EVEN NOW, WE, THROUGH OUR JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS, SHOULD BE CONDUCTING NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION, AND NOT JUST THE UNITED STATES.

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WE SHOULD ATTEMPT TO REACH AN AGREEMENT AMONG OURSELVES AS TO THE SPECIFIC TYPE OF ARRANGEMENT THE OTHER 5 DISTRICTS WILL HAVE WITH THE MARIANAS, THE TIMETABLE FOR ANY SEPARATION AND THE TRANSITIONAL STEPS THAT WILL HAVE TO BE TAKEN IF A SEPARATION IS TO OCCUR. FINDING SOLUTIONS TO THESE QUESTIONS IS NOT THE JOB OF THE UNITED STATES. IT IS THE JOB OF THE MICRONESIAN LEADERS, WHEN THEY ARE IN FACT PROVIDING LEADERSHIP TO THEIR PEOPLE.

WHAT HOLDS US TOGETHER. IS IT A COMMON LANGUAGE, CULTURE, HISTORY OR A FEELING OF NATIONALISM? CLEARLY NOT. THE ONLY FACTOR WHICH WILL DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT THERE WILL BE A UNITED MICRONESIA IS LEADERSHIP. WITHOUT ACTIVE AND DEDICATED LEADERS, UNITY IS AND WILL BE A DREAM, NOT A REALITY. THE MARIANAS IS ALREADY ON ITS WAY. WITHOUT THE PROPER LEADERSHIP, THE QUESTION IS NOT WHETHER ANOTHER DISTRICT WILL GO, BUT WHICH DISTRICT WILL GO NEXT.

EVEN THE HIGH COMMISSIONER HAS RECOGNIZED THE PRIMARY IMPORTANCE OF OUR DEALING WITH THE STATUS QUESTION. IN HIS STATE OF THE TERRITORY MESSAGE HE STATED:

"THIS CONGRESS NOW HAS BEFORE IT A CHALLENGING OPPORTUNITY TO OPEN THE WAY FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MEANS OF INTERNAL SELF GOVERNMENT FOR MICRONESIA." HE THEN CONTINUED, " I AGAIN URGE THE MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS TO GIVE TOP PRIORITY TO THE PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION CREATING A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION."

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WHY IS IT THAT A FOREIGN HIGH COMMISSIONER MUST URGE THE LEADERS OF MICRONESIA TO PROVIDE LEADERSHIP DURING THIS MOST IMPORTANT TIME IN OUR HISTORY. WE SHOULD NOT HAVE TO BE TOLD THAT WE NEED TO PROVIDE THE MEANS FOR ESTABLISHING A NEW MICRONESIAN GOVERNMENT. YET OUR FAILURE TO ACT DURING THE PONAPE SESSION INDICATES THAT WE MAY NEED TO BE URGED TO DO OUR JOB.

INSTEAD OF CONSIDERING THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION BILL IN PONAPE, WE FOUND MANY OTHER THINGS TO OCCUPY OUR TIME. WILL WE DO THE SAME THINGS THIS SESSION? WHAT IS IT THAT IS SO IMPORTANT THAT WE MUST USE OUR SHORT TIME TOGETHER AVOIDING OUR FUTURE STATUS? APPARENTLY WHAT WE ARE DOING IS SPENDING THE MAJORITY OF OUR TIME CONSIDERING LEGISLATION WHICH IS BEING COPIED FROM A FOREIGN CULTURE, WHICH IS INCOMPREHENSIBLE TO MOST OF OUR PEOPLE, WHICH IS NOT SUITED TO AN UNDERDEVELOPED ISLAND NATION, AND WHICH MAY BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR OUR NEW GOVERNMENT.

THE AMERICAN LEGAL SYSTEM MAY WORK IN AMERICA. THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT IT WILL WORK IN MICRONESIA. THREE INSTRUCTIVE EXAMPLES OF HOW WELL THE AMERICAN SYSTEM WORKS WHEN TRANSPLANTED TO A FOREIGN CULTURE ARE THE PHILIPPINES, SOUTH KOREA, AND SOUTH VIETNAM. I HOPE THAT WE ARE NOT BUILDING A FOURTH EXAMPLE HERE IN MICRONESIA. RATHER THAN SEEING HOW RAPIDLY WE CAN PASS LAWS COPIED FROM THE UNITED STATES, WE SHOULD SPEND OUR TIME PROVIDING THE LEADERSHIP NECESSARY FOR MICRONESIA TO EMERGE AS A NEW NATION. LET US GIVE OUR PEOPLE THE CHANCE TO FORM A CONSTITUTION BEFORE WE GIVE THEM A MODEL CORPORATION LAW. WE CAN DELAY NO LONGER; WE MUST ACT NOW.

END TEXT

~~THANK YOU~~

TREM 031368