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March 15, 1973

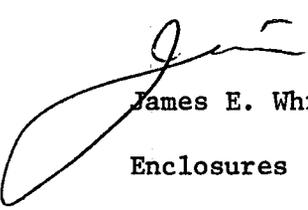
Mr. Howard P. Willens  
Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering  
Farragut Building  
900 17th Street, N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20006

Dear Howard:

To put your mind at ease re the Rota problem, enclosed please find a letter with attachments from Antonio Atalig clarifying the misunderstanding that the 1973 United Nations Visiting Mission had initially developed.

All still looks well at this end for our upcoming sessions, however, I am somewhat worried about the timing as far as you are concerned. The Chairman indicated that he will be talking with Ambassador Williams on Saturday and will make a firm date then. We are hopeful that the first two to three weeks of April will remain as the time frame we are referring to. If this should change I will let you know posthaste.

Sincerely yours,

  
James E. White

Enclosures

TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS  
Office of the Mayor  
Municipality of Rota  
Rota, Mariana Islands District  
96951

March 13, 1973

The Honorable Paul Blanc  
Chairman, 1973 U.N. Visiting Mission  
United Nations Trusteeship Council  
New York, New York

Dear Mr. Chairman:

It is my privilege, on behalf of the people of Rota, to extend to you and the honorable members of the 1973 U. N. Visiting Mission our appreciation for your recent visit on March 3, 1973, to Rota. Inasmuch as your visit accorded us the opportunity to meet personally with you and the members of the Visiting Mission, we note with disappointment that the visit was all too brief and the time allotted to the general public to express their sentiments on the important issues and problems affecting the residents of Rota was unfortunately limited. There was insufficient time for any of us on Rota to elaborate fully our position on some of the crucial and complex problems facing our people on the island.

It is my hope that this letter will attempt to clarify two matters of serious importance to the people of Rota. Specifically, I would like the record to be clear that the people of Rota support the desire of the people of the Mariana Islands District in their aspiration to pursue a separate political status upon termination of the Trusteeship Agreement toward a close association with the United States of America. In support of this position, the Rota Municipal Council, on March 16, 1971, adopted Resolution No. SP-02-71, a copy of which is hereby attached.

Accordingly, it is our firm hope that the Marianas Political Status Commission, which has been charged with the duties and responsibilities to conduct discussions with the United States on the Marianas status question, will continue its efforts to negotiate the best political arrangement for the entire people of the Mariana Islands District.

With respect to the desire of the people of Rota to seek the establishment of a separate Rota district of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, I would also like the record to be clear that this expression of our people addresses itself to a status within the present framework of the trusteeship system. For almost a decade prior to the creation of the Congress of Micronesia, Rota was administered as a separate district and we believe that such a status could once again be accorded to Rota.

The Honorable Paul Blanc  
March 13, 1973  
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Logically, such a separate Rota District would give our people the opportunity for more local autonomy, to set our own policies in all administrative matters, and to set our own pace in accordance with our needs and goals. Resolution No. 23-71, adopted by the Rota Municipal Council on October 4, 1971, specifically addressed itself to that conclusion. I would like to point out, however, that the resolution should not in any way be construed as an expression in opposition for our desire to seek a close association with the United States at the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement. A copy of Resolution No. 23-71 is also attached for your reference.

I trust that the foregoing statements clarify our position on the two major issues.

Sincerely yours,

  
Antonio Ca. Atalig  
Mayor  
Municipality of Rota

Enclosure

ROTA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL  
FOURTH REGULAR SESSION, 1971  
RESOLUTION NO. 23-71

INTRODUCED BY: THE COUNCIL OF THE WHOLE  
A RESOLUTION

RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO AMEND SECRETARIAL ORDER NO. 2918, AS AMENDED, TO PERMIT THE CREATION OF A SEPARATE ROTA DISTRICT OF THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

WHEREAS, for many years, Rota Island, Mariana Islands District, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, was administered as a separate District within the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands; and

WHEREAS, the people of Rota have become increasingly dissatisfied with the domination of their desires by some local leaders of Saipan, with whose desires and aspirations the people of Rota frequently are in serious disagreement, particularly in the areas of future political status, attitude toward the Trust Territory Government, and goals of economic development; and

WHEREAS, there is insufficient opportunity for the local autonomy of Rota as long as it remains a part of the Mariana Islands District, even as a sub-district center; and

WHEREAS, it is the sense of the Rota Municipal Council that adequate attention to the needs and desires of the people of Rota can only be served by the establishment of Rota as a separate District within the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands; and

WHEREAS, the creation of Rota as a separate District would create more employment opportunities for professional persons, and in so doing would provide Rota with the services which are presently needed, but lacking, such as a Prosecutor, Fire Department, and Public Defender; would enable the people of Rota to set their own policies, subject only to the approval

of the Trust Territory Government, and in so doing avoid the domination of Rota by some local leaders of Saipan in the Mariana Islands District Legislature; would increase the voting and policy-making power of Rota in the Congress of Micronesia and at the territorial level in general; would facilitate the education of the people of Rota, in furtherance of the provisions of the Trusteeship Agreement; would enable the people of Rota to place more emphasis on the economic development of Rota than is presently permitted by the present system of government; would avoid the discrimination in appropriations presently and repeatedly practiced by the Mariana Islands District Legislature in favor of the people of Saipan and against the people of Rota, an example of which was the recent appropriation of \$15,000 for scholarships for Saipanese students and a denial of appropriation for Rotanese students; and in general would permit the people of Rota to control their own internal affairs; and

WHEREAS, a majority of the people of Rota have signed a Petition urging the establishment of Rota as a separate District of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Rota Municipal Council, Fourth Regular Session, 1971, that the Secretary of the Interior be and he hereby is respectfully urged and requested to amend Secretarial Order No. 2918, as amended, to allow the creation of Rota as a separate District of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Congress of Micronesia be and it hereby is respectfully urged and requested to adopt legislation urging such change in the said Secretarial Order No. 2918; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Secretary of the Interior, to

the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Territorial Affairs, to the High Commissioner, to the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Congress of Micronesia, to the District Administrator of the Mariana Islands District, to the President of the Mariana Islands District Legislature, and to each member of the Marianas Delegation to the Congress of Micronesia.

PASSED BY THE ROTA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, THIS 4th DAY OF  
October, 1971.

Antonio Ca. Atalig  
Chairman

Attested by: Alfred M. Apatang  
Council Secretary

1971 ROTA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

RESOLUTION NO. SP-02-71

INTRODUCED BY: THE COUNCIL OF THE WHOLE

A RESOLUTION RELATIVE TO EXPRESSING THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE PEOPLE OF ROTA REGARDING THEIR POLITICAL FUTURE AND RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE HONORABLE DAVID M. KENNEDY, AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE TO CONVEY THE SAME TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

WHEREAS, being administered by the present administering authority which is the United States of America, the people of Rota have appreciated the true doctrine of American Democracy, a government which is truly formed for the people, by the people, and of the people; and

WHEREAS, because of these principles, the people of Rota have expressed their keen desire to become permanently affiliated with the United States in any status deemed most appropriate for the people of Rota to undertake; and

WHEREAS, this official expression to become permanently affiliated with the United States cannot be construed in such a way that the people of Rota are not satisfied with the present administration as it has demonstrated and manifested its interest in the developments of this island; and wherefore the people of Rota felt that their political destiny is for them to become United States Citizens by becoming permanently affiliated with the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, should the people of Rota become ready to choose their political status, let it be known that they will elect to become U.S. Citizens; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Rota Municipal Council that the political aspirations of the people of Rota are hereby expressed and the Honorable Kennedy, Ambassador-at-

Largo hereby respectfully requested to convey the same to  
the President of the United States of America.

Passed by the Rota Municipal Council this 16th day of March,  
1971.

/s/ Antonio Ca. Atalig  
Antonio Ca. Atalig  
Chairman

/s/ Alfred M. Apatang  
Alfred M. Apatang  
Secretary