

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

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Wilson
called to D. Truth

March 27, 1973

Sen. Lazarus Salli, Chairman
Rep. Ekpap Silk, Co-Chairman

Sen. Tosiwo Nakayama
Sen. Andon Amaraich
Sen. Bailey Olter
Sen. Edward DLG. Pangellinan
Sen. Petrus Tun
Sen. Roman Tmetuchi
Sen. Amata Kabua
Sen. Ambilos Iehsi
Sen. John Mangefel
Rep. Herman Q. Guerrero

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

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Dear Haydn:

Thank you for your letter in reply to mine of February 22nd. Permit me to use this letter to clarify a few points which seem to have arisen.

You note quite correctly that the United States has long recognized the significance of land to Micronesians, and that you realize the complexity of the entire land situation. Recognition and sympathy with a problem, however, as well as promises to do something about the problem in the future, may not be sufficient in the situation in which we currently find ourselves.

With reference to the question of to whom and when all public lands in Palau should be returned, the position of the Joint Committee on Future Status was, I had hoped, made clear in my letter of February 22nd. During the recently concluded session of the Congress, the Committee met and made the decisions which went into the letter, after meetings with the traditional chiefs and local elected leaders of Palau. Each member of the Joint Committee saw the finished draft of that letter, and concurred in it. Accordingly, I do not believe that it can be said that on this question there is a division of opinion on the question of public lands in Palau. Further, these questions had not been discussed in Congress until the Joint Committee took its position. Therefore, in the absence of any specific instruction to the contrary from the Congress on this question, you may consider the position of the Joint Committee as the position of the Congress.

As to ramifications for other districts, no position has been taken by either the Congress or the Joint Committee.

The situation, simply stated, is this: as we both understand, there can be no signing of any compact agreement until agreement has been reached on all issues, including U.S. land

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requirements. And, in the case of Palau, no negotiations regarding U.S. land requirements can take place unless and until all public land in Palau is returned to the traditional chiefs in trust for the people.

I recognize that this position may necessitate some additional consideration by your delegation as to its priorities. We would expect, therefore, to receive your response on this question prior to the resumption of talks, in order to avoid any unfortunately premature conclusion to them. We have arrived at a tentative date for the resumption of these talks, and I can assure you that I have every intention of going forward at that time should we receive your response. If we do not receive it, however, we must regretfully assume that the United States is unwilling or unable to accept our position, and hence has no further desire to continue negotiations. On the other hand, your reply might conceivably either agree to our position or abjure further U.S. demands for military facilities in Palau.

As I have noted, as soon as we receive this reply, we will be prepared to resume the next round of talks as scheduled. At this round, it is our proposal that the issues of finance, termination, transition, and other minor issues such as travel and immigration, be taken up.

Finance: Your position on this matter regretfully leaves us at somewhat of a loss to determine exactly what the United States proposal in this area is. We do appreciate your suggestions as to how funds coming from the U.S. could be used and through whom they would be received, but believe that this is an internal question which Micronesians alone should handle. What we would appreciate is a specific statement as to the level of support which the United States proposes to offer to Micronesia for the considerations which Micronesia proposes to give and for other purposes, in reciprocation to the figures which we have given you.

Termination: Our delegation remains unable to determine whether your previous position on this important question is your final one, and would appreciate clarification accordingly, as this issue, as you well know, still affects the outcome of the negotiations as a whole.

Transition: I believe it can safely be said that both of our delegations have agreed that there will be no termination of the Trusteeship Agreement until a successor government has been

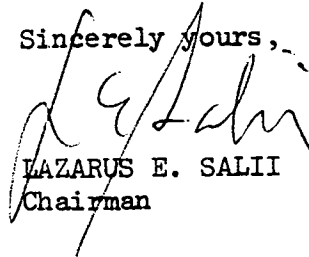
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formed and is organized. As with your delegation, it would be comforting to us to know exactly what the form of that government will be. I believe, however, that there are many aspects of the question of transition which are independent of the question of the form of a successor government, and suggest again that these aspects be the subject of discussion at the forthcoming round.

In conclusion, I would hope, as you have suggested in your letter, that future rounds of negotiations between our two delegations could conclude in the spirit of harmony that generally prevailed in the past. The somewhat less-than-satisfactory conclusion to the Barber's Point Talks was due, after all, to a lack of communication between our two delegations, which necessitated your delegation to seek more time for further clarification. It is in the sincere effort to avoid a similar result that our correspondence prior to the next round could serve to clarify the issues and the positions of the two delegations on those issues. Thus, I hope that my letters have been of some assistance to your delegation, and look forward with expectation to receiving your reply.

Sincerely yours,



LAZARUS E. SALII
Chairman

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