

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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

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April 14, 1973

Dear Lazarus,

I believe that it would be highly desirable for us to meet in the near future to discuss informally a number of substantive and procedural questions and I hope that you and Ekpap have had time to consider the invitation I extended to you both in my letters of March 16 and 20.

Your letters of February 22 and March 27 have introduced new elements and new conditions relating to the negotiations since our last discussions in December and our tentative agreement to hold the next round of talks in May. From your last letter I understand that your new position is that the question of the public trust lands in Palau must now be resolved before proceeding with the drafting of the remaining titles of the compact. Your request that Palau be singled out for special early consideration raises many complicated legal and jurisdictional questions, problems that cannot be resolved quickly. We are studying this as a matter of priority. But by introducing this new element as a pre-condition to further talks you have clearly made it impossible to proceed as we had originally suggested with a meeting of the two delegations in May.

In view of this I feel strongly we need to consult jointly on just how we can now proceed. I therefore propose that we meet in Hawaii during the first week in May. Jim Wilson will be with me. Once we have agreed on dates we can exchange further views on the most important issues we should both be prepared to discuss:

I look forward to your reply to this invitation.

With all best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

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

cc: Ekpap Silk

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