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ADMINISTRATIVE CONFIDENTIAL

20 April 1973

Deputy High Commissioner

Director, Public Affairs

MS report from Marshall District--radio message P 190620Z to Senator Kabua's response to Chairman Sali's remarks on separate political status negotiations for the Marshalls

As the Director of this department I am extremely concerned and as a Micronesian I am deeply disturbed over the state of affairs within the Micronesian Political Status Commission.

The attached copy of the wire reporting on Amata's reply to Senator Sali has shown that the situation within the Political Status Commission of the Congress of Micronesia is rapidly deteriorating to a point where it is now a matter of speculation whether the status negotiation with the U.S. Representative will resume within the next couple of weeks as previously reported in view of the language used by these two Micronesian leaders.

What started out, it seems to me, as a perfectly logical and acceptable action on the part of the United States to recognize a legitimate wish and aspiration of a people has now unintentionally started a process of fragmenting the Territory.

It can be said from the Micronesian side that the strong feeling which finally surfaced has been dormant all these years and I think it is well that it is brought into the open so that a more meaningful and in-depth review of the situation can be undertaken for the benefit of the people of Micronesia. Perhaps no real useful purpose will be served by us proceeding to negotiate with the U.S. as a Territory when there actually exists neither an historical nor cultural nor economic basis to it. On the other hand, one can argue that at this most difficult and trying time in Micronesia when diplomacy and statesmanship of the highest order are called for, we find that our leaders have decided not to rise to the occasion. It will be my fondest hope that Micronesia will weather this political storm and sail the ship of state into peaceful waters toward its finest hour.

Senak Yoon

cc: High Commissioner  
SA/LA  
SA/DA  
SC

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