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CIVIL AERONAUTICS DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

July 2, 1973

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter is with reference to the "Service to Saipan Case" (Docket 24421). The Department of State does not wish to take a position with respect to carrier selection. Our interest in the case relates to the U.S. Government's and this Department's responsibilities to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands under the United Nations Trusteeship Agreement by which the U.S. administers the islands, and to our current negotiations concerning the future political status of those islands.

I believe that the Civil Aeronautics Board should attach considerable weight to the views of the elected leaders of Micronesia in the Congress of Micronesia and in the district legislatures of the Trust Territory, as expressed in resolutions and in appearances before the Board. Such action is expected of us as the administering authority. Moreover, it would be in the U.S. national interest.

We are currently in the midst of two sets of delicate negotiations directed at termination of the United Nations Trusteeship, achievement of "commonwealth" status for the Mariana Islands, and "free association" with the U.S. for the remaining five districts of Micronesia. A primary feature of the U.S. proposals relating to both future relationships is that the U.S. Government would have responsibility and authority for their foreign affairs, including questions of air routes servicing the islands. An additional issue is whether the authority of the CAB would extend to the districts of Micronesia in a new political relationship.

The Honorable  
Robert D. Timm,  
Chairman, Civil Aeronautics Board.

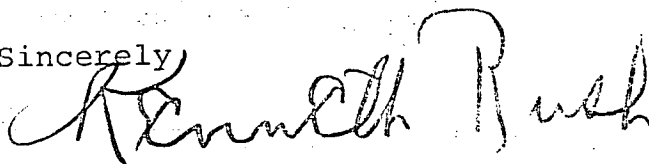
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Our ability to negotiate such arrangements will depend in very great measure on the current perceptions of Micronesian leaders of the manner in which the U.S. Government respects their views and protects their interests. The route case and other unrelated issues are thus, in the eyes of the Micronesians, "test cases" indicative of how the U.S. Government might exercise its responsibilities and authority under the proposed future political status arrangements.

It is thus important the CAB, in forming its recommendation to the President on the Japan-Saipan route case, give careful and serious attention to the views of the legislative bodies of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. This is an obligation on the part of the U.S. Government, and an issue which could influence the course of the current important status negotiations.

Kindest regards,

Sincerely,



Kenneth Rush  
Acting Secretary