

Public lands file

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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

November 1, 1973

Senator Lazarus Salii
Chairman, Joint Committee on Future Status
Congress of Micronesia
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950

Dear Lazarus,

I am forwarding to you with this letter the U.S. Government's answers to the questions that have been posed with respect to U.S. policy toward the early transfer of title to public lands from the TTPI Government to the districts. The answers have been set forth in a statement of policy and an enumeration of various courses of action that will have to be taken to implement the desired transfer of title to those districts which request such action.

I am hopeful that the statement and the accompanying background paper elaborating certain features of the U.S. response will serve as a framework for our early November discussions in Washington prior to resuming our negotiations on remaining political status issues.

In our view this new policy should permit the Congress of Micronesia and the District Legislatures' great latitude in accomodating the major and sometimes diverse desires and concerns of each district relating to public land. In addition, it reserves sufficient authority to the TTPI Administration for the execution of its responsibilities until the trusteeship is dissolved.

You will note that the U.S. is inviting full Congress of Micronesia involvement in establishing the mechanisms for returning the public land to district control and effecting necessary changes in legislation. We believe such participation in this matter of concern to every Micronesian should help to insure that the desires of the people are met in fact. We thus assume that the Congress will wish to cooperate fully in this matter.

I look forward to your arrival and I will be happy to discuss with you any features of the policy on which you may desire elaboration in advance of any formal meetings.

Sincerely yours,

Franklin Haydn Williams

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

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