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Reponse of Senator Salii - 11/13/73

Mr. Ambassador:

We are pleased at the willingness of the United States Delegation to accept our basic position on the issues we have raised with regard to the United States paper on the return of lands. We are happy to have the explanation that this constitutes an official policy of the United States Government.

It is our view that the clarifications we have received are consistent with this United States policy.

You have raised a few points and questions that require some response. With regard to eminent domain, we recognize that the ultimate authority will continue to reside with the Administering Authority until termination of the trusteeship. We understand, however, that it is your intention that this power would only be exercised in coordination with the District Legislature in which the land is located.

With regard to the negotiation of land leases for military use, when we refer to the fact that "We are prepared to make a formal commitment to negotiate," we refer to this Delegation. We understand that the United States will want to obtain a commitment to negotiate from the landowner to whom the title is returned. Obtaining such a commitment is the responsibility of the United States. This Delegation will be willing to assist in this connection.

The Palau Delegation, by which I mean the Ibedul, the Reklai and the Speaker and members of the Legislature who are here, including Senator Tmetuchi and myself, has already made a formal commitment to negotiate after the land is returned.

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Mr. Ambassador, you have raised the question of the desirability of our Delegation, possibly in conjunction with yours, reviewing with officials of the Trust Territory Government and the Interior Department the implementation of this policy. It is the view of our Delegation that it is not necessary at this time to go into such a review of details, but we would like to keep the door open for such a review at some time in the future when we find we have the time.

Thank you, sir.

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