

[Date (12/23/73)]

10  
8

(WILSON LETTER RELEASED)

SAIPAN, DEC. 26 (MNS)---IN THE WAKE OF A PUBLIC NEWS  
RELEASE FROM MARIANAS CONGRESSMAN FELIPE Q. ATALIG LATE  
LAST WEEK CONCERNING A DISCUSSION BETWEEN HIM AND U.S. DEPUTY  
REPRESENTATIVE FOR MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATION JAMES  
M. WILSON, JR. THE OFFICE OF MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATION  
HAS RELEASED THE CONTENTS OF A LETTER WRITTEN TO REPRESENTATIVE  
ATALIG BY WILSON.

Press

03 027643

THE LETTER WAS WRITTEN BEFORE CONGRESSMAN ATALIG MADE THE ISSUE PUBLIC, ACCORDING TO STATUS LIAISON OFFICER MARY VANCE TRENT. IT IS BEING RELEASED NOW BECAUSE THE CONGRESSMAN CHOSE TO MAKE THE LETTER HE WROTE TO WILSON CONCERNING DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO MEN THAT AROSE OUT OF A CONVERSATION AT SAIPAN'S ROYAL TAGA HOTEL TUESDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 18, A MATTER OF PUBLIC RECORD. MISS TRENT INDICATED WILSON HAD NO DESIRE TO PERPETUATE ANY ARGUMENT, BUT SIMPLY WISHED TO CLARIFY DIFFERENCES OF OPINION WHICH EXIST OVER WHAT WAS SAID DURING THE CONSERVATION. THE WILSON LETTER STATES: *Conversation and yours, evidently diverge on a number.*

"MY RECOLLECTION OF THAT PARTICULARS, AND I AM DISTRESSED THAT YOU SEEM TO HAVE TAKEN CERTAIN REMARKS PERSONALLY. THEY WERE NOT SO INTENDED.

"ON THE SUBJECT OF HOMESTEADS ON TINIAN, I BELIEVE I MADE THE POINT THAT THERE WERE BY OUR INFORMATION 83 AGRICULTURAL AND 15 VILLAGE HOMESTEAD APPLICATIONS OUTSTANDING AS OF THE END OF APRIL. OF THE 83, WE WERE ADVISED BY TRUST TERRITORY OFFICIALS IN SAIPAN THAT ONLY A VERY FEW OF THE APPLICATIONS SPECIFIED THE LAND AREAS DESIRED BY THE APPLICANTS, THUS MAKING IT IMPOSSIBLE TO PROCESS THEM. THERE WASN'T TO MY KNOWLEDGE, NO INTIMATION THAT THERE WERE 83 APPLICANTS WHO WERE DENIED PUBLIC LANDS BECAUSE THEY HAD FAILED TO IMPROVE THEIR HOMESTEAD LOTS.

"WITH REGARD TO THE LATTER PART OF THE CONSERVATION, I BELIEVE I OBSERVED IN RESPONSE TO YOUR REMARKS THAT THE U.S. DELEGATION WAS IN SAIPAN AT THE REQUEST OF THE MARIANAS, WHO HAD ASKED THAT WE DISCUSS THE MEANS BY WHICH THEY COULD BECOME MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN POLITICAL FAMILY. YOU MADE CLEAR THAT YOU DID NOT WISH TO BECOME SUCH A MEMBER.

"I ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE WERE CERTAINLY SOME LIKE YOU WHO DID NOT WISH TO DO SO, BUT POINTED OUT THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE TO CARRY ON DISCUSSIONS ON FUTURE STATUS UNLESS BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT MEMBERSHIP IN THE FAMILY WAS THE COMMON GOAL. IF ANYONE FELT OTHERWISE HE HAD NO BUSINESS THERE AND SHOULD GET OUT--NOT OF THE ISLANDS, OF COURSE, BUT OF THE TALKS.

"IF YOU UNDERSTOOD THESE REMARKS OTHERWISE, PLEASE ACCEPT MY APOLOGIES. THEY WERE NOT MEANT PERSONALLY. CLEARLY NO ONE WOULD EVER WANT TO SUGGEST THAT YOU SHOULD LEAVE YOUR OWN ISLAND. IT WAS AT THAT POINT THAT I WAS SUMMONED AWAY AND SO WE HAD NO OPPORTUNITY TO CLARIFY MATTERS.

"PERHAPS OUR DIFFICULTY IS ONE OF COMMUNICATION AND A NEED TO BE MORE SENSITIVE TO EACH OTHER'S SENSIBILITIES. CERTAINLY WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS SUCH AS THESE UNDER CALMER CIRCUMSTANCES AND I TOOK FORWARD TO DOING SO AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY."

WILSON'S LETTER CONCLUDED BY WISHING CONGRESSMAN ATALIG BEST WISHES FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON.

ATALIG, WHO REPRESENTS THE ISLAND OF TINIAN IN THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, ENGAGED IN THE DISPUTED CONSERVATION WITH WILSON AT THE HOTEL FOLLOWING A RECEPTION GIVEN FOR MEMBERS OF THE TWO STATUS NEGOTIATION DELEGATIONS. THE THIRD ROUND OF MARIANAS STATUS TALKS CONCLUDED LAST WEEK ON SAIPAN, AND WILSON WAS ON HIS WAY BACK TO WASHINGTON BY THE TIME THE CONTENT OF THE CONGRESSMAN'S LETTER TO HIM REGARDING THE CONSERVATION WAS MADE PUBLIC.  
(MORTON SENDS GREETINGS)

027644