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FOURTH MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE

FOURTH REGULAR SESSION

RESOLUTION NO. 18-1974

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INTRODUCED BY: HON. LORENZO I. GUERRERO, SAIPAN
HON. FRANCISCO M. DIAZ, SAIPAN

A RESOLUTION RELATIVE TO EXPRESSING DISSATISFACTION OF THE MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT WITH RESPECT TO THE MANNER IN WHICH THE CLAIMS OF THE INHABITANTS OF THE MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT ARE BEING HANDLED AND TO GO ON RECORD OF NOT BEING WILLING TO APPROVE ANY STATUS ARRANGEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA UNTIL AND UNLESS THE CLAIMS FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT ARE FULLY AND EQUITABLE SETTLED

WHEREAS, the inhabitants of the Mariana Islands District suffered severely during the hostilities of World War II at the hands of both the Japanese and the American invading forces that resulted in a complete destruction of their homes, loss of their personal property and subsequently the extensive use of their private land by the U. S. Military Forces without any compensation whatsoever; and

WHEREAS, this suffering occurred more than thirty years ago and other areas of the world where hostilities resulted in war have received compensation for their losses but the people of the Trust Territory have not yet received any payment for their losses; and

WHEREAS, the Mariana Islands District Legislature has supported the speedy and expeditious settlement of the War Claims for the people, but after more than two (2) years of operation, the claims in the Marianas are still unsettled and from all indications, the payment of these claims will be further delayed; and

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WHEREAS, information received by the Legislature indicates that the people will be required to sign a release prior to being able to receive 16% of their adjudicated award, without any guarantee of any balance to be paid them, which is considered to be unfair and indeed deceptive in that the people are being misled; and

WHEREAS, while it is required that claims under TITLE I be paid on a pro rata basis; no such requirement exists for the claims that fall under TITLE II, but indications are that the United States Department of the Interior plans to pay Title II claims on a pro rata basis; and

WHEREAS, if this method is followed, it will be violation a of both the letter and the spirit of the law; and

WHEREAS, this Legislature is shocked and highly incensed over the blatant manner in which officials of the United States are attempting to deceive and mislead the people of the Mariana Islands District with regard to the extremely low values that are being assigned to property losses; and

WHEREAS, it is the sense of this Legislature that the United States of America has legal and moral obligation to make certain that the claimants of meritorious claims be fairly, equitably and expeditiously settled, and no status arrangement that involves the Mariana Islands District and the United States will be accommodated until the war claims of the people have been satisfactorily resolved; and

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WHEREAS, since the District Legislature must approve of any future status arrangement negotiated, the Marianas Political Status Commission and negotiators for the United States of America are hereby put on notice that the settlement of the claims of our people is a necessary requisite and a condition precedent to such approval;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY the Fourth Mariana Islands District Legislature, Fourth Regular Session, that the dissatisfaction of the Mariana Islands District Legislature with respect to the manner in which the war claims of the inhabitants are being handled, and to go on record of not being willing to approve any status arrangement with the United States until and unless the claims for the people of the Mariana Islands District are fully settled;

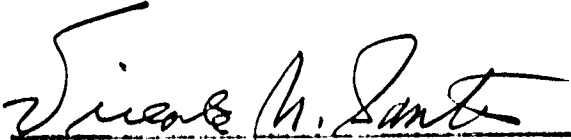
AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President certify to and the Legislative Secretary attest the adoption hereof and thereafter transmit copies to each member of the Marianas Political Status Commission, to Ambassador Franklin Hydn Williams, the Secretary of the U. S. Department of the Interior, the Secretary of the U. S. Department of State, the Secretary of the U. S. Department of Defense, the Chairman of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission, the Chairman of the Senate Committee on

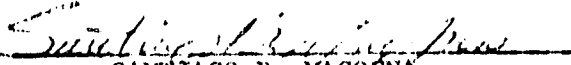
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Interior and Insular Affairs, the Chairman of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, Congresswoman Patsy T. Mink, Congressman Philip Burton, Congressman Thomas Foley, Congressman Spark Matsunaga, Congressman Lloyd Meeds, to the President of the United Nations Trusteeship Council, and the Marianas Palau Joint Committee on Reparations.

PASSED BY THE FOURTH MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE SEPTEMBER 2, 1974.


VICENTE N. BANTOB
President


SANTIAGO B. MAGOFNA
Legislative Secretary