

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

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Dr. Randolph Marshall Director, International Programs Institute of Public Administration 1619 Massachusettes Avenue, N. W. Washington, D. C. 20036

Dear Dr. Marshall:

As a result of informal inquiries, we have decided to write to you seeking your advice and assistance in suggesting names of possible candidates for the position of the developmental economist on our Legislative staff. We have information that your organization might be in a position to assist us in this regard.

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The following pertinent facts about our Territory may help you in considering our request:

The Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (popularly known as and called "Micronesia") is composed of the Caroline, Mariana, and Marshall Islands. The islands were controlled by Germany prior to World War I; were placed under a mandate to Japan by the League of Nations thereafter, and since World War II have been administered by the United States. The United States accepted administrative responsibility and an obligation to the people of the Trust Territory through a Trusteeship Agreement between the United States and the United Nations Security Council. This responsibility was assigned to the Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior by an Executive Order of the President in 1951.

Pursuant to the Trusteeship Agreement, the United States has undertaken to encourage, as rapidly as possible, the political, economic and social development of the people of the Trust Territory, and their development towards self-government or independence.

The Congress of Micronesia--the territory-wide legislature--was established in 1964. It is composed of elected representatives from throughout the Trust Territory and is not subject to direct



United States supervision, although its establishment and the scope of its legislative authority are the result of United States Executive action. Further, acts of the Congress of Micronesia are subject to United States veto.

At present, the Trust Territory is undergoing a transitional period whereby serious studies and political education must be undertaken in preparation for a plebiscite in which the people of the territory will freely express their wishes on the future status of their islands. The Congress of Micronesia, as the highest legislative branch of the Government, has come to recognize the need to gradually assume a greater share in financially supporting the Micronesian Government through locally raised revenues.

These efforts have helped to spur economic development for our island nation. Today the substance and form of our future political status arrangement with the United States is becoming more firm. A tentative date has been set for termination of the Trusteeship Agreement (1981), and approximate levels of monetary assistance from the United States during the transition period are being discussed. All of these developments make it incumbent upon the Congress of Micronesia to seek the technical assistance of an expert in the economic development planning field. Such expertise is needed in formulating economic goals and plans, the guidelines and programs for implementing them, and also in advising members and committees of the Congress in economic planning matters in general.

A two-year contract, between the employee and the Congress, can be renewed at the discretion of the Congress.

We hope this brief outline of our need is sufficient for you to recommend application to members of your organization, or as a basis for recommending to us the name of an organization, firm, facility or publication through which we might be able to locate the expertise requested.

Sincerely yours,

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W. Stephen Miller Budget Officer/Staff Attorney Congress of Micronesia