

PRESS RELEASE  
No. 10-1975  
FEBRUARY 13, 1975

17

Today the Honorable Daniel T. Muna from Saipan introduced Resolution No. 72-1975 which was referred to the Political Committee for its immediate action.

Resolution No. 72-1975: "A RESOLUTION RELATIVE TO RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE SECRETARY OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR TO INCLUDE IN THE PROPOSED SECRETARIAL ORDER FOR SEPARATE ADMINISTRATION OF THE MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT A PROVISION TO ALLOW THE PRESENT MEMBERS OF THE MARIANA ISLANDS DELEGATION TO THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA TO SERVE AS DELEGATES AT LARGE IN THE MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE UNTIL JANUARY 1977 OR SOONER IF THE LEGISLATURE OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS IS ESTABLISHED".

The Mariana Islands District Legislature after being advised that the Marianas Political Status Commission had unanimously approved the covenant to establish the Commonwealth Government of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the formal signing of the covenant to take place on Saturday, February 15, took the initiative to consider every important aspect of such action. When the covenant is referred to the people of the Marianas District and the people vote to adopt this covenant, the issuance of the Secretarial Order to exclude the Mariana Islands District from provision of Secretarial Order that established the Congress of Micronesia and to have the Mariana Islands administered separately from the other districts of the Trust Territory. The Legislature is mindful that when the Secretary of the Interior issues a Secretarial Order to establish separate administration, the Mariana Delegation to the Congress of Micronesia will no longer be members of that body. For this reason, the Honorable Daniel T. Muna introduced Resolution No. 72-1975 that requested the Secretary of the Interior to make provision in his

13577

Press Release  
No. 10-1975  
Feb. 13, 1975  
Page 2.

Secretarial Order so that the members from the Marianas who are serving in the Congress of Micronesia could have their terms continued as delegates-at-large as members in the Mariana Islands District Legislature.

The members of the Legislature feel that this action is fair, just, equitable and is necessary in order to strengthen the membership in the Mariana Islands District Legislature to better equip us to effectively meet the enormous challenges that we will face during the transition of our government. In addition, the members of this Legislature also mindful of the fact that those individuals currently serving in the Congress of Micronesia are elected by the people in this district to serve as law-makers. Hence, it is only logical that these members of the Marianas Delegation to the Congress of Micronesia continue to be involve in the law-making process as full fledge members of the Mariana Islands District Legislature with all the rights, priviledge and immunities accorded the membership of this body.

Looking to the future Commonwealth Government, we must fully utilize all available capability in all aspects of the formation of our Commonwealth Government.

The members of the Mariana Islands District Legislature as well as myself, are giving serious consideration to the proposal by Honorable Daniel T. Muna requesting the Secretary of the Interior to make provision for those members currently serving in the Congress of Micronesia to be delegates-at-large as full fledge members of the Mariana Islands District Legislature.

13578

No. 10-1975  
Feb. 13, 1975  
Page 3.

I, as President of the Mariana Islands District Legislature, would like to go on record to assure the members who are currently serving in the Congress of Micronesia that everything possible will be done to accomodate their full utilization, and to bring them into this law-making body as full members and to maintain their status as legislators or congressmen for the Marianas.

13579