



Congress

MICRONESIA

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SAIPAN

MARIANA ISLANDS

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Phone 97.00
Telex 724 5.

April 7, 1975

SENATE

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Tosiwo Nakayama

MARIANAS DISTRICT

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Pedro A. Tenorio

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PALAU DISTRICT

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Roman Tmetuchi

PONAPE DISTRICT

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TRUK DISTRICT

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PALAU DISTRICT

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PONAPE DISTRICT

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TRUK DISTRICT

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Kalisto Refonopel
Ray Setik
Lambert Aafin

YAP DISTRICT

Luke M. Tman
John Haglelgam

The Honorable Pedro A. Tenorio
Senator, Congress of Micronesia
P. O. Box 42
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950

Dear Senator Tenorio:

Reference is made to your April 3, 1975 letter to us concerning the use of "unity" money authorized for disbursement at our discretion under Public Law No. 5-106, a copy of which is attached for your information and use. Our initial comment is that we regret that you chose to write what we view as an extremely sincere--but misguided--letter without having contacted us first, or at least without having first apprised yourself of some of the information connected with this matter.

At the outset, we wish to draw your attention to the language of the attached public law which we believe is clear and which does not support your several references to "political education programs" designed to "undermine" certain arrangements for the people of your district. In this connection, we would like to inform you that the funds made available for "unity" purposes have been used in many ways: several thousand dollars were granted to support the Traditional Chief's Conference in Truk, during November of last year. In addition to this, a substantial sum was also obligated to pay travel and per diem costs for meetings in Saipan and Honolulu in connection with the return of public lands issue, and here we should note that, despite uninformed charges that by paying for the expenses of persons from several districts for this purpose, we were "buying" their "loyalty", several of these people did not sign a Congress position paper, or take action in concert with our decisions. You should also know that the Mariana Islands District was not the only recipient of the remainder of these funds: money also went to other districts.

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We, therefore, feel that your charges are unfortunately based on emotion and instinct, and not on facts and realities; we have received no such criticism from other uses of the money, and it is apparent that only the sensitive political situation in the Marianas is accountable for your remarks. We should also like to indicate that it is our belief that it would have been unfair to deny a proper request from citizens of your district, just as you claim it is unfair to honor such a request. Obviously, in making the decision that we have--as in other cases--we cannot please everyone concerned. Also, in consideration of your attitudes and approaches during the past session of the Congress, we would have expected an inquiry from you that was more diplomatic in its tone, and Micronesian in its approach. Such statements as are contained in your letter styling our action as a "violent, dangerous, and coordinated subversive effort tactically camouflaged in the name of 'unity'", are not deserving of a rejoinder, as are many of the erroneous and unbecoming statements.

Instead, we would remind you, for example, of a statement made by the representative of the United States to the United Nations Trusteeship Council in 1973 that:

"Many Micronesians consider the question of political unity to be the most important issue faced by Micronesia today. The problem is basically one which the Micronesians must resolve for themselves."
(T/PV. 1412, 17.)

The findings and recommendations of the Trusteeship Council of that year included the following:

"The Council hopes that it is not yet too late, provided that the will to succeed exists, to devise and negotiate a proposal regarding future status acceptable to all six districts which, until it is decided otherwise, form the Trust Territory of Micronesia."

We are in accord with these sentiments, and note for the record passage of joint resolutions of the Congress of Micronesia reaffirming that it is the sole bargaining agent for Micronesia on status matters, and that no separate administration of any

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district should be effectuated prior to termination of the Trusteeship Agreement. We believe that our actions, not only with regard to use of "unity" funds, but in many other matters, are consistent with the best interests of all the people of Micronesia.

In this connection, we note you have referred to the oath of office which is administered to all members of the Congress. In part that oath states:

"Do you solemnly swear that...you will discharge these obligations and responsibilities in a manner that will bring honor to this high body and to the people of Micronesia...and that you will loyally defend the laws of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and promote the well-being of all the people of Micronesia, so help you God?" (emphasis added).

We believe we have upheld the principles of that oath, and that our actions have been consistent with them; our concerns have been, are now, and will continue to be--as they must--for the best interests of all of the Micronesian people in all of the districts.

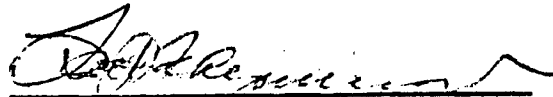
We furthermore regret that, because of certain political matters in your district, you have made certain representations disparaging the honor and integrity of the Leadership of the Congress, and of the Congress itself on its Tenth Anniversary. If anyone's honor and integrity are at stake in Micronesia today, it is that of the United States which as Administering Authority has consciously and consistently taken unilateral actions to undermine elected and traditional Micronesian authority in our islands over the past few years in violation of its solemn responsibilities as an Administering Authority within the guidelines of the United Nations International Trusteeship System.

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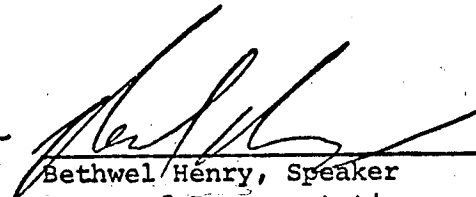
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Finally, we would like to offer our hope that in the future we can continue to work and consult together amicably with mutual respect on matters of district and Micronesia-wide interest, as we have in the past on other matters.

Very truly yours,



Tosiwo Nakayama, President
Senate



Bethwel Henry, Speaker
House of Representatives

cc: All Members of Congress of Micronesia
Secretary, U. S. Dept. of the Interior
Philip Burton, U. S. House of Representatives
Edward E. Johnston, High Commissioner, TTPI

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LEGISLATORS DROPPED IT ENTIRELY HOPING TO MAKE THE BILL MORE PALATABLE TO THE ADMINISTRATION. THEY ALSO PENCILLED OUT SPECIFIC AMOUNTS FOR EXPENSE ALLOWANCES AND PER DIEM RATES. THOSE AMOUNTS WOULD BE DETERMINED ANNUALLY ON A "FUNDS AVAILABLE" BASIS.

THE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE JUSTIFIED THE NEW SALARY LEVELS IN A LENGTHY REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE SAYING THAT AS FULL-TIME LEGISLATORS, THEY WILL BE RESTRICTED FROM HOLDING GOVERNMENT JOBS AND THAT THE NEW FULL-TIME STATUS WILL BRING WITH IT AN INCREASED BURDEN OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DIRECTING THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC FUTURE OF PONAPE DISTRICT."

IF IT IS APPROVED BY DISTAD FALGAN, THE BILL WILL TAKE EFFECT ON JANUARY 3, 1976, TWO DAYS AFTER THE LEGISLATURE BECOMES A FULL-TIME LAW-MAKING BODY.

(U.S.-MARIANAS SEPARATE TALKS CRITICIZED)

PONAPE, APRIL 7 (MNS)---POLITICAL RUNDLINGS JARRED THE USUALLY SERENE PONAPE DISTRICT THURSDAY AFTERNOON, (APRIL 3), AS THE LEGISLATORS SLAMMED THE UNITED STATES ADMINISTRATION WITH A CHARGE OF DELIBERATELY ATTEMPTING TO DISUNIFY MICRONESIA.

THE CHARGE CAME IN THE FORM OF A RESOLUTION ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE PONAPE DISTRICT LEGISLATURE AIMED AT HALTING THE SEPARATION OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS FROM THE OTHER DISTRICT IN THE TRUST TERRITORY.

IN THE STRONGEST STATEMENT FOR UNITY IN MICRONESIA EVER EXPRESSED BY THE PONAPE LEGISLATURE, THE RESOLUTION CALLS FOR THE UNITED STATES TO IMMEDIATELY DISCONTINUE "ALL ACTIVITIES AND NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SEPARATE (DISTRICT) OF MICRONESIA WHICH DISRUPT THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF MICRONESIA."

OFFICIALS FROM THE MARIANAS AND THE UNITED STATES HAVE ALREADY NEGOTIATED AND SIGNED A COMMONWEALTH COVENANT WHICH, IF APPROVED DURING A PLEBISCITE TO BE HELD IN JUNE, WILL LEAD TO THE COMPLETE SEPARATION OF THE MARIANAS DISTRICT FROM THE TRUST TERRITORY.

THE RESOLUTION, INTRODUCED BY LEGISLATORS JOANES EDMUND AND KASIANO JOSEPH, ACCUSES THE UNITED STATES OF "PROMOTING ITS OWN TERRITORIAL AND MILITARY INTERESTS IN THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS." IT FURTHER STATES THAT THE UNITED STATES ACTION IN THE MARIANAS DISTRICT "HAS UNWITTINGLY ENCOURAGED VARIOUS INTEREST GROUPS WITHIN THE OTHER DISTRICTS OF MICRONESIA TO EXPLOIT THE POSSIBILITIES OF ASSERTING THE RIGHT OF SEPARATE STATUS NEGOTIATIONS AT A TIME WHEN THE TRUST TERRITORY IS FACED WITH POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CRISIS."

UNITED STATES NEGOTIATORS, THE RESOLUTION ALLEGES, HAVE FAILED TO CONSIDER THE "CRUCIAL IMPORTANCE OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS FOR THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC VITALITY OF THE REMAINDER OF MICRONESIA."

PRIOR TO VOTING, LEGISLATOR SOSIRO ELIAM URGED HIS COLLEAGUES TO ACT SWIFTLY AND ADOPT THE RESOLUTION WITHOUT DELAY. ELIAM SAID THE UNITED STATES /HAS DELIBERATELY INITIATED AND ENCOURAGED SECTIONALISM THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICT OF MICRONESIA."

POINTING OUT THAT ALTHOUGH MICRONESIA'S LAWMAKERS AND TRADITIONAL CHIEFS HAVE CONSISTENTLY URGED UNITY IN THE TERRITORY, ELIAM SAID, "THE UNITED STATES HAS DEEMED IT FIT AND PROPER IN ADVANCING ITS NATIONAL AND GLOBAL INTEREST, TO DIVIDE AND CONQUER WITHIN MICRONESIA."

ELIAM ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SOME PEOPLE MAY CONSIDER THE RESOLUTION AN ACT OF MEDDLING IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE MARIANAS DISTRICT, BUT, HE SAID, "LET ME REMIND THOSE CRITICS THAT THE MARIANAS ISLANDS ARE STILL VERY MUCH A PART OF MICRONESIA. WHATEVER HAPPENS THERE CARRIES A HEAVY IMPACT ON THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FUTURE OF ALL THE DISTRICTS IN THE TRUST TERRITORY."

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(TENORIO SCORES CONGRESS LEADERSHIP)

SAIPAN, APR. 7 (MOS)---MARIANAS SENATOR PEDRO A. TENORIO HAS ACCUSED THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA LEADERSHIP OF TRYING TO "UNDERMINE THE MARIANAS PEOPLE'S DESIRE TO FREELY EXPRESS THEIR CHOICE FOR POLITICAL STATUS."

IN A STRONGLY WORDED LETTER TO HOUSE SPEAKER BETHUEL HENRY AND SENATE PRESIDENT IOSIWO NAKAYANA, TENORIO EXPRESSES "GRAVE DOUBTS AND DISBELIEF" ON THEIR AUTHORIZATION OF \$10,000 TO CERTAIN MARIANAS RESIDENTS TO CONDUCT A POLITICAL EDUCATION AIMED AT ACHIEVING "UNITY" WITH THE "HIDDEN MOTIVE TO UNDERMINE THE MARIANAS' DESIRE FOR COMMONWEALTH."

CONGRESSMEN OSCAR C. RASA AND JOSE P. MAFNAS RECENTLY RECEIVED \$10,000 FROM THE CONGRESS UNITY FUND FOR POLITICAL EDUCATION IN THE MARIANAS DISTRICT.

TENORIO SAID THAT WHILE HE HAS NO OBJECTION REGARDING THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA'S INTEREST TO UNDERTAKE A SERIOUS EFFORT TOWARD UNITY, HE NEVERTHELESS CHARGED THAT THE CONGRESS IS "USING SOME OF OUR PEOPLE AS A TOOL TO GET AT THE MARIANAS DISTRICT FOR ITS 'SEPARATIST' ATTITUDE..."

"IF UNITY FUNDS IS TRULY FOR AN OPEN-MINDED POLITICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM IN THE MARIANAS," HE POINTED OUT, THEN THE PROGRAM SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, THE HEADQUARTERS EDUCATION FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT STAFF, OR THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION AND SHOULD NOT BE GIVEN TO THE STAFF OF A LOCAL NEWSPAPER "WHOSE AIM HAS CONSISTENTLY BEEN THE PRESENTATION OF DISTORTED AND BIASED INFORMATION AND THE ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE OF CREATING SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CHAOS SPECIFICALLY AIMED AT THE MARIANAS PEOPLE BECAUSE OF THEIR DESIRE TO BECOME PART OF THE UNITED STATES."

THE MARIANAS SENATOR WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE CANNOT UNDERSTAND WHY THE CONGRESS AUTHORIZED THE FUNDS TO BE USED FOR WHAT HE CALLED "SUBVERSIVE POLITICAL ACTIVITIES IN THE MARIANAS."

"I SAY SUBVERSIVE," TENORIO ADDED, "AND ATTACH DEEP MEANING TO IT BECAUSE I BELIEVE STRONGLY THAT THE AIM OF SUCH PROGRAM IS DESIGNED WITH A MALICIOUS INTENTION OF UNDERMINING THE COMMONWEALTH MOVEMENT IN THE MARIANAS DISTRICT."

"IT IS VERY CLEAR," CONTINUED THE FRESHMAN SENATOR, "FROM THE ACTION OF THE CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP THAT ITS PAST PRETENSE FOR 'NON-INVOLVEMENT' AND IMPARTIAL ATTITUDE TOWARD THE WISHES OF THE MARIANAS PEOPLE HAS BEEN TRANSFORMED AND REINCARNATED INTO A MOST VIOLENT, DANGEROUS AND COORDINATED SUBVERSIVE EFFORT TACTICALLY CAMOUFLAGED IN THE NAME OF UNITY."

THE MARIANAS SENATOR TOLD THE CONGRESS LEADERSHIP THAT IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT THE UNITY FUNDS OF THE CONGRESS WAS TO BE USED TO PROMOTE TRADITIONAL DISCUSSION "WHICH MAY LEAD TOWARD BETTER UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION AMONG THEM."

HE REMINDED THEM THAT "UNITY CANNOT BE BOUGHT, BUT CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED BY MUTUAL RESPECT FOR EACH OTHER..."

"I FELL VERY STRONGLY," THE LETTER STATED, "THAT THE PUBLIC FUNDS AUTHORIZED AND APPROPRIATED BY YOUR OFFICES FOR ITS INTENDED PURPOSES IS A FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF OUR SOLEMN OATH WHEN WE TOOK OFFICE, AND FURTHERMORE, A CLEAR DEMONSTRATION OF INTENTIONAL ABUSE OF OUR TAXPAYERS' MONEY."

(CALL USERS: PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)

(CONGRESSMAN WILL SUPPORT STRIKING TEACHERS)

SAIPAN, APRIL 7 (CONGRESS RELEASE)---MARIANAS CONGRESSMEN OSCAR RASA AND JOSE MAFNAS ISSUED A STATEMENT MONDAY, (APR. 7), SAYING THAT THEY INTEND TO "FULLY SUPPORT" THE EFFORTS OF THE TEACHERS OF SAIPAN IF THEY DECIDED TO CARRY OUT PLANS TO GO ON

STRIKE THIS WEEK.

THEY SAID ALL SCHOOL TEACHERS, NOT ONLY ON SAIPAN BUT IN THE REST OF MICRONESIA, WERE PROMISED DECLASSIFICATION OF THEIR JOB STATUS AND RETROACTIVE PAY FIVE MONTHS AGO, BUT TO DATE ONLY FOUR SAIPAN TEACHERS HAVE BEEN RECLASSIFIED.

THEY ADDED THAT DURING RECENT MEETINGS ON SAIPAN WITH DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OFFICIALS, ONLY MORE PROMISES HAVE BEEN MADE. RASA AND MAFNAS SAID IT IS NOT APPARENT THAT THE GOVERNMENT NOW "DOES NOT POSSESS" THE MEANS TO KEEP ITS PROMISES BECAUSE OF THE RECENT "FREEZE" ON HIRING AND RECENTLY ORDERED CUT-BACKS ON ALL TRAVELS BY IT OFFICIALS.

THE MARIANAS CONGRESSMEN SAID THAT THERE HAVE EVEN BEEN "ATTEMPTS TO INTIMIDATE CERTAIN TEACHERS BY THE ADMINISTRATION TO FORCE THEM NOT TO STRIKE ON SAIPAN."

THEY ADDED SUCH ACTIONS ONLY "CONFIRM SUSPICIONS THAT THE AMERICAN--CONTROLLED ADMINISTRATION DOES NOT HAVE HONORABLE INTENTIONS" TO SETTLE THE RECLASSIFICATION PROBLEM.

"I BELIEVE ALL AVENUES OF SETTLEMENT WITH THE ADMINISTRATION ARE CLOSED," RASA SAID. "WHY DO SOME AMERICANS IN THE ADMINISTRATION MAKE PROMISES TO THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES WHEN THEY KNOW THEY CANNOT KEEP PROMISES?" HE ASKED.

RASA SAID TEACHERS HAVE OCCUPIED A LOW PLACE ON THE GOVERNMENT PAY SCALE "TOO LONG" AND THAT "CAPABLE, DEDICATED MEMBERS OF THE TEACHING PROFESSION DESERVE FAIR COMPENSATION FOR THEIR EFFORTS." HE SAID "TOO LARGE OF A PERCENTAGE" OF THE IT EDUCATION BUDGET CONTINUES TO GO TO AMERICAN CONTRACT PERSONNEL, AND NOT TO LOCAL MICRONESIAN CLASSROOM TEACHERS.

RASA ADDED THAT ANOTHER MAJOR REASON WHY HE IS SUPPORTING THE TEACHERS IF THEY DECIDE TO STRIKE IS BECAUSE IF THE PROPOSED COMMONWEALTH COVENANT IS APPROVED IN THE PLEBISCITE IN JUNE, "THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS CAN EXPECT MANY AMERICAN TEACHERS FROM GUAM, HAWAII AND THE MAINLAND COMING TO THE MARIANAS SEEKING JOBS."

"AMERICAN TEACHERS SIGN A "NO STRIKE" AGREEMENT IN THEIR CONTRACTS BEFORE THEY ARE HIRED," RASA SAID. "IF THE MARIANAS PEOPLE BECOME AMERICAN CITIZENS UNDER COMMONWEALTH, WE CAN EXPECT AMERICAN CONTRACT TEACHERS WHO HAVE AGREED NOT TO STRIKE TO REPLACE MICRONESIAN TEACHERS."

RASA SAID THE MARIANAS PEOPLE "MUST UNDERSTAND THAT THE PROVISIONS OF THE COVENANT WILL AFFECT EVERYBODY IN THE MARIANAS IN MANY IMPORTANT WAYS, AS IT WILL AFFECT OUR TEACHERS IF THE MARINAS BECOMES A COMMONWEALTH."

RASA SAID JOINING THE SO-CALLED "AMERICAN POLITICAL FAMILY" WILL GIVE 200 MILLION 'OTHER' AMERICAN CITIZENS CERTAIN RIGHTS IN THE MARIANAS AND THAT THE MARIANAS PEOPLE BETTER ASK THEIR STATUS COMMISSION MEMBERS EXACTLY WHAT RIGHTS THESE 'OTHER' AMERICAN WILL HAVE IN THE MARIANAS.

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