

Congress of Micronesia

CAPITOL HILL SAIPAN MARIANA ISLANDS 96956

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Phone
Telex

April 12, 1975

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Mr. Abel Olopai, Acting President
United Carolinian Association
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950

Dear Mr. Olopai:

Reference is made to your letter of April 7, 1975. I appreciate the concerns of the United Carolinian Association and particularly the leadership over the uncertainties and the "long-range effects" of certain provisions in the Covenant. I am pleased to hear that the Association will be actively engaged in a "fully-balanced political education program in the Carolinian language."

I do not wish to enter into a fruitless discussion that will ultimately lead into nothing more than personal accusations and distasteful feelings. I feel that your comments to my letter to the presiding officers of the Congress of Micronesia has that strong attitude, and for this reason alone, I am taking the liberty to clarify your accusations in the interest and spirit of reaching some mature understanding.

My objection to the Congress of Micronesia's funds appropriated for Unity and Political Education in the Marianas is not intended to stop a political education for the Carolinian people. Nowhere in my letter did I mention such objection. The recipients of the funds are not the UCA as such. I am not aware of any official proposal from the recipients as to how a program is to be conducted, nor any formal justifications for the expenditure of funds. The Congress, as you well know, is notorious for nit-picking when it comes to expenditure of public funds, yet it went ahead and appropriated \$10,000 on a "free-for-all-basis." This is one of my objections.

I do not agree with you that the "District Administration, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands Education for Self-Government Programs and the Marianas Status Commission" are entirely at fault for the lack of or ineffectiveness of Political Education for the Carolinians.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Sasago Haru
Kirsta Nakamura
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Eugene Tui

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I believe that certain leaders in the Association are just as guilty for refusing to cooperate and participate particularly in the MPSC program to explain the Covenant to all the people, not just to the Carolinians. If the Carolinians are not getting the proper political education on the Covenant, then you, as one of the more educated Carolinians, are at fault for refusing an invitation to fully participate in the MPSC program which requires full assistance in the translation of the Covenant as well as the dissemination of information in the Carolinian language.

Your pledge for a fully-balanced political education for the Carolinians is very admirable; however, the "open-minded political education program" including your pledge, which I fully supported, have been consistently sabotaged in the news media and on one specific instance by you in your statement in the Pacific Daily News issue of April 8, 1975. In that paper, you have deliberately and unfairly misled your people by implying that the Covenant provides that Chamorros, or as you stated, "only persons of Northern Marianas descent will be able to own land, and this certainly disqualifies Carolinians."

You know very well that your statement is distorted and erroneous. Northern Marianas descent includes Carolinians as well as Chamorros, unless you consider yourself and the Carolinians born and raised elsewhere, are not residents of the Marianas, and with no ties to the Marianas District. Mr. Felix Rabauliman, who is a representative of the Carolinian people in the Commission, fully understands such a provision. I do not believe that you made such statement because you sincerely misunderstood the provisions of the Covenant. I feel that your statement is deliberate and calculated with the intention of confusing your people. The most recent propaganda that all teachers in the Marianas will be forced out of their jobs when the Commonwealth is in effect is another blatant contradiction to our concepts of "fully-balanced" and "open-minded" political education.

Let me quote you more of the same irresponsible statements made in a letter to the Marianas teachers dated April 9, 1975, by Honorable Congressmen Rasa and Mafnas:

"If the Covenant for a Marianas ^{Commonwealth} ~~Covenant~~ is approved, it must be pointed out that all U.S.

citizens from Guam, Hawaii, the mainland, and those not presently working and residing in the Trust Territory, will enjoy the same employment privileges as the residents and teachers of the Marianas now enjoy."

These two gentlemen either did not read the Covenant or are playing it dumb to stir up our teachers. Here is the fact: The people of the Marianas will not immediately become U.S. citizens after the Covenant is approved by both sides, but rather after the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement, which may take five years or longer. This clearly means that the Marianas people will still be TTPI citizens and will continue to enjoy fully preferential employment status until termination. Furthermore, this statement that "200 million other Americans" will be given free entry into the Marianas is true. It's true for Guam, all territories, and all states of the Union, but will they come from 10,000 miles away just to take away our teachers' jobs? How many U.S. teachers from the mainland U.S. come out to Guam or Saipan voluntarily to find a teaching job?

If you don't think the above statements by two public officials are not distorted, then you have missed the whole meaning of a fully-balanced political education.

Your recent efforts to put up a "hoax scare" to your people can only be interpreted to mean that you are against your people making an intelligent decision to choose their future and further, that you do not want to understand the provisions of the Covenant, which is so important for the purpose of conducting a fully-balanced political education. Unless I see first a clear demonstration of unbiased discussion among yourself, I will continue to maintain that the program is designed with a malicious intention to undermine the Plebiscite. I would be more than happy to participate in your discussion.

I have to admit that my views about political status has always been different from yours. From the very beginning of the political campaign, I have always expressed my support for Commonwealth. I have made a promise to all the people that I will do everything possible to ensure that the status negotiations are conducted in a manner that will guarantee maximum protection and benefit to all the people of the Marianas.

I do not appreciate your accusation that I have betrayed the trust of the Carolinian people by breaking my promises. For the record, I did not promise you nor anybody else that I will vote against the Commonwealth status. I endorsed the cautious approach to the negotiations before final agreement, and I sincerely believe that I did my utmost to ensure that any provisions to the detriment of the people are not in the Covenant. I have never once endorsed nor campaigned for a "go-slow" approach which I feel is a convenient disguise and an excuse for people, like you, who are against the negotiations for their own personal and selfish reasons.

I want to make it abundantly clear that I got elected into office by the general public, and as such, my responsibility is not limited to you and the Carolinian people but to the entire population including those who did not vote for me. I do not believe that I owe you or any minority or majority group any particular favor nor do I believe that I should be forever indebted for any support from any group.

I did not make a deal with any group that once elected I will be willing to be twisted and manipulated by any group may that group be Chamorro or Carolinian. Perhaps this is the root of your frustration and disappointment.

As a public official, I do what I think is best for all the people, and certainly not what a handful of vocal puppets demand.

The Congress leadership owes the Marianas people an explanation for its most irresponsible authorization of public funds to sabotage the Plebiscite. I am sorry but I cannot meet your demand on behalf of my Carolinian supporters that I apologize to the presiding officers.

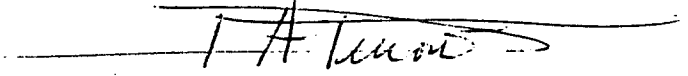
My statements about the Congress leadership remain in full force until I am convinced beyond doubt that they intend to stay out of our local affairs, either directly or indirectly.

The time has come to set the record straight. First, the majority of the Marianas do not endorse the Free Association Status that the Congress of Micronesia has negotiated; and second, the people of the

Narragans does not interfere with the wishes nor
policy of the other districts. The people of
the Narragans respect the desire of the other dis-
tricts and only ask that they be extended the same
court.

Finally, you will have the opportunity to read
this letter before it is made public, and I hope
you will make it a habit to do the same.

Sincerely yours,



Senator Pedro A. Fenorio

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