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Congress of Micronesia

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April 14, 1975

DATE

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Dear Colleagues:

It did not take too long to see the first of a series of the kind of political education in the Marianas that the Congress of Micronesia hopes to see anyway in appropriating the \$10,000 of public funds.

First, there is the statement made by a Mr. Abel Olopai in the Pacific Daily News issue of April 8, 1975, which states that "only persons of Northern Marianas descent will be able to own land, and this certainly disqualifies Carolinians." This is a clear-cut example of what Mr. Olopai called a "fully-balanced political education program" for the Carolinians. If I have ever known of one effort for "disunity", this has to be rated supreme. I need not mention this, but because of its racial discrimination overtone, it is also an all out effort to promote hatred among the Marianas people.

Second, the letter of Congressmen Mafnas and Raza to the Marianas teachers. I quote from their letter several sentences reflecting their views of unity and balanced political education; they said, "If the Covenant for a Marianas Commonwealth is approved, it must be pointed out that all U.S. citizens from Guam, Hawaii, the mainland, and those now residing and working in the Trust Territory, will enjoy the same employment rights and privileges as we residents and teachers of the Marianas now enjoy. . .we will no longer enjoy first preference for jobs," "If you decide to strike in the future, Americans, who will enjoy equal employment rights on our islands under Commonwealth, will replace you." "Do not vote for a status agreement that will permit outsiders to take your jobs." The Covenant "gives 200 million other Americans free entry into the Marianas with equal job preference."

The simple truth to the above are: (1) The Carolinians certainly fall under the category of Northern Marianas descent just like the Chamorros and others. If this is not the case, why then didn't

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the Carolinian representative to the MPSC violently object. The MPSC knows better than to permit any deliberate discrimination on the land ownership in the Marianas. If anything, the Carolinians should be in the top category of Marianas descent as, by historical fact, they came to the Marianas before the Chamorros. Moreover, under the Covenant, the Carolinians are just as entitled as the Chamorros to all rights and privileges.

(2) The full clarification to Congressmen Mafnas' and Rasa's statement, who intended to create confusion among the Marianas teachers, is this: The provisions of the Covenant dealing with citizenship and nationality, particularly reciprocal privileges and immunities, will not apply immediately following the U.S. Congress' approval of the Covenant. Rather, such provision will be applicable only after the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement which the Congress of Micronesia may see fit to drag on for five years or indefinitely. The fact that other U.S. citizens will eventually have equal protection under the law once the Marianas becomes a full-fledge Commonwealth is not something that the Marianas people find difficult to live with. I am sure that under our own system of local self-government guaranteed by the Covenant, most of the very practice that the two Congressmen pointed out, but refused to accept to be existing today, will be minimized.

Lastly, to allude that 200 million Americans will invade the Marianas for a teaching job has got to be the most hilarious statement coming from two supposedly well-informed public officials.

My point, gentlemen, is simply this: The well-intentioned objective of the Congress of Micronesia under PL 5-106, to "Promote the concept of Micronesian national unity" will never be fulfilled because for one, the Marianas people do not desire unity, and secondly, the funds appropriated for unity falls on the hands of the wrong people who have so far demonstrated that Unity can only be achieved by alienating the Carolinians from the Chamorros and by conducting a political education against the Covenant. At best, their activities will promote separatism with the ultimate disruption of the peaceful, friendly, and brotherly relationship that presently prevail in the social environment between the Carolinians and the Chamorros.

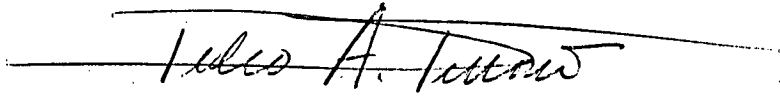
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Should any social upheaval develop among our people, there is no one to blame but members of Congress who relish the thought that Unity can be achieved by a handful of dollars.

I would like the leadership to clarify to the public whether, in its haste to appropriate the \$10,000, it did not overlook the fact that H.B. 6-133 of the First Session of the Sixth Congress, which made available additional funds for Unity, might not have been signed into law yet thereby making the expenditure illegal when the appropriation for \$10,000 was made on March 25, 1975. On the other hand, if funds were obtained from P.L. 5-106, for the Marianas Political Education, my sincere apologies. For the record, I would like the leadership to account for every single penny of the public funds spent for the Marianas Political Education in the name of Unity.

Lastly, by copy of this letter, I am informing the Secretary of Interior, the High Commissioner, and the Congress leadership of the need to audit the books of the Congress of Micronesia to insure that public funds are spent in accordance to established laws and regulations.

Sincerely yours,


Senator Pedro A. Tenorio

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cc: Secretary of the Interior
High Commissioner ✓
President Tosiwo Nakayama
Speaker Bethwel Henry

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