



JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS
CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950
"MICRONESIA"

AUG 6 REC'D
Copy sent to
Amb. 8/6/75 7,9

Phone 9759
Telex 724 5267

Sen. Lazarus Salii, Chairman
Rep. Ekpap W. Silk, Co-Chairman

July 30, 1975

Sen. Tosiwo Nakayama
Sen. Bailey Olter
Sen. Petrus Tun
Sen. Ambilos Iehsi
Sen. John Mangefel
Rep. Ataji Balos
Rep. Sasauo Haruo
Sen. Pedro A. Tenorio
Rep. Isidoro Rudimch
Rep. Oscar C. Rasa

The Honorable Franklin Haydn Williams
Office of Micronesian Status Negotiations
Department of the Interior
18th and C Streets, N.W.
Room 3356
Washington, D.C. 20240

Rec'd by Amb
8/12
MVF

Dear Ambassador Williams:

The purpose of this letter is to convey to you the present views of the Joint Committee on Future Status with regard to the continuation of negotiations which will lead to the termination of the Trusteeship. As we have previously informed you, it is the opinion of the Committee, and that of the Congress of Micronesia, that the resumption of talks between us at the present time would be unavailing and inappropriate.

There are four basic reasons for our position that further talks should be deferred. First, as you know, a territory-wide referendum in which all of the people of Micronesia will have an opportunity to express their present preference as to future political status was recently held. The sentiment of the Micronesian people in this regard will be of great importance to those who have responsibility for negotiations on the matter, and the Joint Committee believes that the negotiations should not be resumed until we have had the opportunity to analyze the results fully.

Second, the Constitutional Convention has convened and is now engaged in drafting a Micronesian Constitution. The conclusions reached by the delegates as to the form of government to be established in Micronesia at the end of the Trusteeship will also provide guidance for those engaged in working out the complementary provisions for future relations between Micronesia and the United States.

A third factor which must be explored in greater depth before a reasoned decision can be made on long-range relations

03-027222

Ambassador Williams
Page Two
July 30, 1975

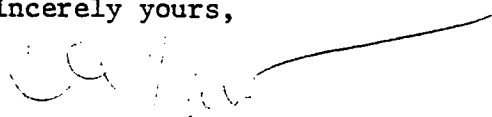
between the United States and Micronesia is the level of financial support to be provided by the United States.

Up to the present time, both sides have been discussing the financial provisions of a United States-Micronesia compact without any firm factual foundation on which a reasoned agreement could be based. We hope that the United States will work with us toward the completion of a comprehensive development plan which can furnish an informed basis for our renewed deliberations. We would appreciate your suggestions on this, especially as to how such a plan or study can be speeded up.

Finally, there are other circumstances which will necessitate a searching re-examination of the provisions in Titles II, XI, III, and XII of the Draft Compact which we have been discussing. One of these is the impact of eventual international arrangements with respect to the Law of the Sea. Any significant degree of economic self-sufficiency for Micronesia rests largely on our ability to utilize the food and mineral resources of the waters that surround our islands. It will be necessary that the provisions of any compact between the United States and Micronesia assure the people of Micronesia of basic protection for their sea resources in the event that difference in interest arise between the Micronesian and American Governments on Law of the Sea questions. You will, of course, recognize that we cannot cede any authority to the United States to conduct the foreign affairs of Micronesia which might lead to the sacrifice of our essential resources. Other circumstances indicating the need for changes in these Titles are also apparent.

I will, of course, be very interested in hearing from you on these issues. As the results of the referendum, the Constitutional Convention and the comprehensive economic development plan become available, I will be in further communication with you, looking toward a timely resumption of our negotiations.

Sincerely yours,


LAZARUS E. SALII
Chairman

027223