

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Old Executive Office Building
Room 361
Washington, D.C. 20506

November 4, 1975

The Honorable Thomas S. Kleppe,
Secretary of the Interior,
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As you know, the U.S. Senate is continuing its consideration of the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America. We hope and expect that the U.S. Congress will be able to complete its consideration of this legislation this December, following which we can begin the necessary steps to bring about an orderly transition of the Marianas from its existing administrative status to one separate from the other districts of the Trust Territory. It has been of course, the stated objective of the United States Government to bring about a smooth transition, which does no harm to either the Marianas or the remaining districts of the Trust Territory and the implementation of which takes into account, to the extent possible, the wishes and legitimate interests of both the Marianas and the other Districts.

I understand from reports from Mr. Fred Zeder, Director of the Office of Territorial Affairs that one of the concerns involved in the administrative separation of the Marianas is that of relocating the Capital of Micronesia from Saipan to a site yet to be determined elsewhere in the Trust Territory to be determined by the Micronesians themselves. I can understand fully why this should be of concern to the Congress of Micronesia at this time and I sympathize with their desire to be assured of the U.S. Government position on this matter and Mr. Zeder's desire to be helpful in this regard.

In my instructions from the President I have been authorized on behalf of the U.S. Government to discuss the question of the relocation of the Capital of Micronesia and to commit the U.S. Government to contribute to the building of a new Capital. This issue, however, has not arisen to date during any formal

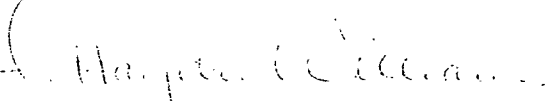
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negotiating session. The policy of the U.S. Government is nevertheless clear, and it would seem that the relocation question is a legitimate one for incorporation into your forthcoming Secretarial Order relating to the administrative separation of the Northern Marianas following Congressional approval of the Marianas Commonwealth Covenant.

I would recommend therefore, in accordance with my instructions, that your Order include an expression of the full intent of the United States to assist in the funding of the Capital, the amount of which will be subject to the ultimate authorization and appropriation by the U.S. Congress. Furthermore, I believe as in the case of the Marianas, that consideration should be given to the need to assist financially the Congress of Micronesia in the preparation of a careful and thorough study of all aspects of relocation of the Capital of Micronesia and other related issues involving the transition of Micronesia to its new political status upon the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement.

I am prepared to discuss this matter in a preliminary way with your Office of Territorial Affairs and wish to assure you that I will lend whatever support I can to making sure that the Congress of Micronesia is given the same opportunity as the Marianas to prepare for an orderly and effective transition to their new status including the relocation of the future Capital of Micronesia.

Sincerely yours,



Ambassador F. Haydn Williams
The President's Personal Representative
for Micronesian Status Negotiations

FHW:kkc