



# Congress of Micronesia

CAPITOL HILL

SAIPAN

MARIANA ISLANDS

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January 12, 1976

SENATE

## PRESIDENT

Tosiwo Nakayama

## MARIANAS DISTRICT

Olympio T. Borja  
Pedro A. Tenorio

## MARSHALLS DISTRICT

Amata Kabua  
Wilfried I. Kendall

## PALAU DISTRICT

Lazarus E. Sallil  
Roman Tmetuchl

## PONAPE DISTRICT

Bailey Oiter  
Ambilos Iehsi

## TRUK DISTRICT

Tosiwo Nakayama  
Nick Bossy

## YAP DISTRICT

Petrus Tun  
John A. Mangefel

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

### SPEAKER

Bethwel Henry

### MARIANAS DISTRICT

Jose Mafnas  
Herman Guerrero  
Oscar Rasa

### MARSHALLS DISTRICT

Ataji Balos  
Charles Demnick  
Carmen Bigler  
Ekapap Silk

### PALAU DISTRICT

Polycarp Basilius  
Kuniwo Nakamura  
Isidoro Rudimch

### PONAPE DISTRICT

Bethwel Henry  
Resio Moses  
Edgar Edwards  
Joab Sigrah

### TRUK DISTRICT

Chiro Aibert  
Sasauo Haruo  
Kalisto Refonopei  
Ray Setik  
Lambert Aafin

### YAP DISTRICT

Luke M. Tman  
John Haglelgam

Senator Ernest F. Hollings  
437 Russell  
Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Hollings:

You and your colleagues were most accommodating in being able to meet with the Congress of Micronesia delegation during your recent trip to Saipan. On behalf of our leadership, may I extend our sincere appreciation, and our observation that your Committee was indeed well prepared to address the key issues surrounding upcoming changes in our political relationship with the United States. To restate our desires on behalf of the other five districts of Micronesia, we see this change as one which will end a trusteeship and allow us to enter into a more democratic relationship with your country. We envision a continuing close relationship, one between friends, with trust among our peoples.

Perhaps it would be beneficial to touch upon the highlights of our discussions and reaffirm our views relating to the key questions you raised.

First, in order to accomplish this new relationship and presuming ratification of our draft Constitution by each district, we ask for your support in our efforts to implement the new Constitution establishing the Federated States of Micronesia. Contrary to the negative reactions of some, it is an instrument which can and will serve our mutual interests.

Next, we noted your deep concern with the prospects of future Micronesian unity. The Congress of Micronesia's record is clear in its opposition to the fragmenting of Micronesia. The possibility of further separatist movements will certainly be enhanced by approval of the Covenant to establish the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. It was evident that the Congress of Micronesia's

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position was not considered when the United States instituted separate status negotiations with the Marianas District, and the plebiscite left little doubt as to the wishes of the people of the Marianas. Consequently, there was little left to do but acquiesce and to work towards drafting a constitution which we believe will bring a special unity to the other districts, given our unique geographical and cultural differences.

I believe this has been accomplished and to those involved in this effort it represents an incredible achievement in the face of the political differences in Micronesia and in spite of the executive branch of the United States Government agreeing to a separate status for the Marianas. It seems to me absolutely essential that to preserve this spirit of unity, which is fragile, as you understand, there needs to be a positive and timely reaction by the United States Government. We need and request your active support and guidance from this day forward. You can help assure unity by refusing to let special economic or military interests lead the United States negotiators into recommending further fragmentation of Micronesia.

Finally, we spoke of the self-evident necessity to relocate the seat of government. Ambassador F. Haydn Williams, the President's Personal Representative for Micronesian Status Negotiations, has committed the executive branch to participate in the planning and funding of this project. We expect that the Congress of Micronesia will appropriate funds to help effect the architectural and engineering work for this endeavor once the site is chosen. As our own revenue sources are rather meager, we will be asking the U.S. Congress to join us in funding the planning along the lines of Ambassador Williams' commitment indicated in the enclosed letter. We hasten to point out that the central government will be substantially reduced in both manpower and physical requirements, thus we do not contemplate building a plant such as exists now. Nevertheless, preliminary planning indicates that even with a greatly reduced plan, the cost will range between \$25-\$45 million to relocate

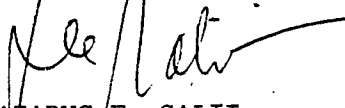
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the three branches of government. We expect to have detailed preliminary plans and estimates within the next few months and will be pleased to make them available to your Committee.

In closing, I would like to again express our appreciation to the United States Congress for its most generous financial support over the years. Through the Comprehensive Economic and Social Development Plan, the preliminary work for which is now underway in the Trust Territory, we hope to be able to use future funds to bring about a much greater degree of economic self-sufficiency. With a strong effort on our part and your backing, we can look forward together to a new and even better future relationship between America and Micronesia.

Sincerely yours,



LAZARUS E. SALII  
Vice President  
Senate  
Congress of Micronesia

Enclosure <sup>Williams</sup> (ltr to Secretary Kleppe dtd 11/4/75)

cc: Ambassador F. Haydn Williams

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Congress of Micronesia

Saipan, Mariana Islands, 96950

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

VIA AIR MAIL

Ambassador F. Haydn Williams  
The President's Personal Representative  
for Micronesian Status Negotiations  
THE WHITE HOUSE  
Old Executive Office Building, Room 361  
Washington, D.C. 20506

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