

MARIANAS DELEGATION

P.O. Box 977

Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950

February 23, 1976

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Dear Senator:

The letter dated February 4, 1976, from the "Friends of the Earth" and sent out by Mr. David Bower to you and all the Senators has just come to our attention today.

As citizens and leaders of the Mariana Islands we regret that the information provided in the letter is conveniently distorted and misleading, so as to appeal to the emotion and more importantly, ignores facts and conditions prevailing in the Marianas today.

The prime concerns of the "Friends" has, until most recently, been the extension of United States environmental laws to the proposed Marianas Commonwealth. The "Friends" letter, dated September 15, 1975, clearly indicated this concern. Now, the "Friends" have launched a crusade and is using all conceivable political efforts to question the propriety of the proposed Marianas Covenant under H.J.R. 549.

We wish to repeat our agreement with the "Friends" that environmental laws enacted by the United States Congress should include the Marianas. Our attachment addresses itself properly to this concern. We, however, strongly disagree with the "Friends" proposal that the U.S. Senate should pass a resolution for an independent Micronesia which would include the Mariana Islands. Such a move will morally and legally ignore the long held desire of the people of the Marianas to enter into a permanent and enduring relationship with the United States.

The "Friends" are concerned that the peoples of the Marianas under the Commonwealth status will be deprived of opportunities for personal accomplishment and ethnic integrity, etc.

What in essence you are asked by the "Friends" to support is to deny our people the opportunity to allow us to progress, to live with the changing times and lifestyle, and to enjoy the benefit of human rights inherent in your Constitution. The "Friends" backward attitude and suggested back to nature approach is a convenient disguise to perpetuate its efforts and its quest to preserve nature in our islands at the expense of our people and the denial of our inherent right of self-determination.

The issue of dismemberment of Micronesia is a moot issue today as far as the Micronesians are concerned. The "Friends" in effect is forcing the Marianas people into unity with all of Micronesia without any respect to the unwillingness of the people for such a relationship. Even the Congress of Micronesia, as recently as February 12, 1976, by joint resolution has endorsed separation of the Marianas to be a part of the United States. To ignore the wishes of the Micronesian leadership and the Marianas peoples' clear desire, in favor of the "Friends'" emotional and irrational proposal to force the people into an independent status in unity with the rest of the Trust Territory, would be unfair and immoral.

We seriously question the authority of the "Friends" in making suggestions on the political issues of Micronesia, and what's best for us. The Marianas people have consistently spoken over the past 25 years on what is best for them. They have voted 78.8 percent in a plebiscite approving the Covenant which we feel was a landmark in our political expression after more than 25 years of waiting to exercise our inherent and sovereign right for self-determination.

The Commonwealth Covenant is a document negotiated by our elected and appointed representatives. The "Friends'" suggestion that the Covenant does not protect our best interest is both false and maliciously insulting to our people. We were not "enamored" with short term gains. We further recognized the long term implications of the Covenant, and we are satisfied with the provisions and protections enumerated in the Covenant.

The "Friends" are deceiving themselves by listening only to those groups that sporadically circulate petitions endorsing Micronesian unity and opposing dismemberment. The "Friends'" representatives have not once visited our islands to hear our views on the issue. They have taken the view that what is not objectively acceptable to them, i.e., the possible disruption of their picture taking safari in Micronesia, is not good for Micronesians.

For far too long the "Friends" have viewed our people as objects of zoological and anthropological research and have imposed their uninvited views toward the development of our peoples and community. For too long the "Friends" have clicked their cameras uninvited and used us selfishly in their books and magazines without any consideration of our feelings and political rights. The time has come when our voices should be heard and to politely tell those meddlers, "The Friends of the Earth" to refrain from providing misleading

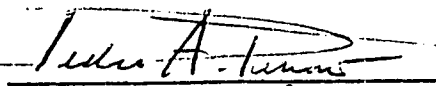
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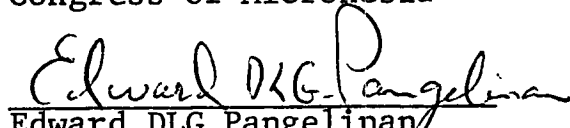
and distorted information to you which may present a grave and serious consequence on our political destiny. We hope that our views will be given your consideration.

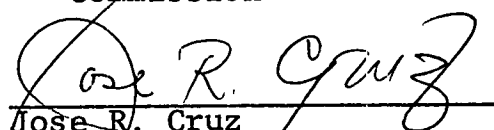
The year 1975 was a year of decision in the Marianas. The people voted for union with the United States. Now it is high time that we tell groups like the Friends of the Earth to stop attempting to impose their ideas on us, to stop their anti-democratic propaganda and to stop treating us in an intellectual neo-colonialist fashion. Their arrogance and their distortions reflect a kind of intellectual imperialism and a deliberate effort to deceive which we strongly resent in the name of fair play and decency.

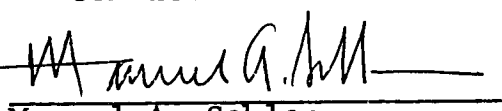
We ask you to make your best judgment on our desire to be a part of you as we convey it to you and not as selfishly expressed by the Friends of the Earth lobbyists.

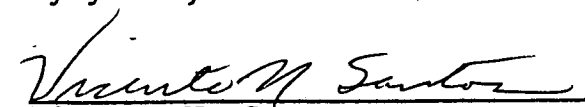
Respectfully yours,


  
Pedro A. Tenorio  
Senator  
Congress of Micronesia

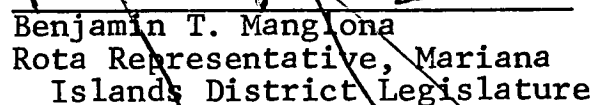
  
Edward DLG Pangelinan  
Chairman  
Marianas Political Status  
Commission

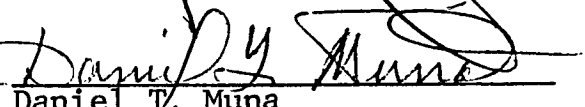
  
Jose R. Cruz  
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Marianas Political Status  
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