



Department of State

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FM HICOMTERPACIS SAIPAN MARIANAS ISLANDS  
TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC

Amb 070284

*de G...*  
*Michelle*  
*Crump*  
*Wytenbach*

UNCLAS. PASS TO INTDEPT/DOA FM HICOM  
TTPI NO 131

*Trent*  
*ofus*

PLS. PASS TO SECINT FOR AMBASSADOR F. H. WILLIAMS

DEAR AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR RECENT MESSAGE, RECEIVED ON MARCH 8. THE JOINT COMMITTEE REGRETS THAT "THE US HAS CONCLUDED THAT FREE ASSOCIATION AS ENVISAGED BY THE COMPACT IS CLEARLY INCONSISTENT WITH THE SOVEREIGN INDEPENDENT STATUS CALLED FOR BY THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION." WHILE THE CONSTITUTION MAY BE INCONSISTENT WITH YOUR INTERPRETATION OF FREE ASSOCIATION, IT IS NOT INCONSISTENT WITH OURS, OR WITH OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE NATURE OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR NATIONS AS AGREED IN PRINCIPLE AT HANA, KOROR, BARBERT'S POINT, AND HONOLULU. FURTHER, IT WAS THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE THAT THE AGREEMENT WHICH EMBODIES OUR FUTURE RELATIONSHIP SHOULD SPEAK FOR ITSELF, WITHOUT REFERENCE TO PRECONCEIVED DEFINITIONS AS TO THE NATURE OF THAT RELATIONSHIP. THE JCFS HOPES THAT WE HAVE NOT LOST SIGHT OF THIS PRAGMATIC APPROACH, SINCE THE KOROR TALKS, THE

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UNITED STATES HAS ALWAYS RECOGNIZED THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA TO SOVEREIGNTY AND INDEPENDENCE. WE HOPE THAT YOUR POSITION HAS NOT CHANGED. I AM CERTAIN THAT WITH GOOD WILL ON BOTH SIDES, WE CAN PRESERVE MOST OF THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS WHICH HAVE HERETOFORE BEEN MADE BY US AND AMEND THE EXISTING DRAFT AGREEMENT TO DEFINE OUR FUTURE RELATIONSHIP. WE ARE ALSO DISAPPOINTED THAT YOUR RESPONSE TO OUR EARLIER LETTER DID NOT INCLUDE YOUR CROSS-ANALYSIS OF THE CONSTITUTION AND COMPACT, AS YOU INDICATED IN YOUR EARLIER CORRESPONDENCE, OR YOUR COMMENTS ON OUR PROPOSALS AND OUR CROSS-ANALYSIS, WHICH WE PROVIDED TO YOU IN GOOD FAITH IN THE BELIEF THAT AN EARLY EXCHANGE OF POSITION PAPERS WOULD FACILITATE

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PROGRESS AT SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS BETWEEN US. IF WE DO NOT HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY YOUR CROSS-ANALYSIS, YOUR COMMENTS ON OUR CROSS-ANALYSIS, AND YOUR CONCRETE PROPOSALS, WE FEAR THAT THE NEXT MEETING BETWEEN US WILL RESULT IN A CONSIDERABLE WASTE OF THE TIME OF BOTH SIDES. FINALLY, LET ME MAKE IT CLEAR THAT WE HAVE BEEN READY TO MEET WITH YOU SINCE NOVEMBER OF 1975, JUST AS SOON AS THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION COMPLETED ITS WORK. WE PROPOSED A MEETING DURING THE RECENTLY-CONCLUDED SECOND REGULAR SESSION OF THE SIXTH CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, WHEN THE AVAILABILITY OF

PAGE 03 RUHGSAA3761 UNCLAS. PASS TO INTDEPT/DOA FM HICOM CONSULTATION BETWEEN US AND THE FULL JOINT COMMITTEE AND THE CONGRESS LEADERSHIP WOULD HAVE FACILITATED OUR PROGRESS, WITHOUT THE UNNECESSARY EXPENSE INVOLVED IN AN AFTER-SESSION MEETING. UNFORTUNATELY, ANY SUCH MEETING WAS NOT POSSIBLE DUE TO YOUR OTHER-PRIORITY COMMITMENTS. WE NOW REITERATE THAT WE ARE READY TO MEET WITH YOU IMMEDIATELY UPON YOUR PROVIDING US WITH YOUR CROSS-ANALYSIS, COMMENTS ON OUR CROSS-ANALYSIS, AND RESPONSES TO THE PRINCIPLES CONTAINED IN OUR PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENTS TO THE COMPACT. WE SUGGEST THAT SUCH A MEETING BE HELD IN SAIPAN, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, AND LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIVING YOUR EARLY REPLY. SINCERELY, LAZARUS E. SALII, CHAIRMAN AND EKPAP SILK, CO-CHAIRMAN, JCFS

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