

Feb 8, 1977



COMMISSION
ON
FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS AND TRANSITION
P.O. BOX 228 CHR8
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950

February 8, 1977

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The Honorable Philip W. Manhard
Acting Representative for Micro-
nesian Status Negotiations
Office for Micronesian Status
Negotiations
Department of Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Ambassador Manhard:

You are, of course, aware of the recent allegations that over the past four years, officials of the United States Government have engaged in surveillance activities directed against Micronesian representatives in connection with negotiations concerning Micronesia's future political status. As you know, the leadership of the Congress of Micronesia has communicated to then President Ford and President-Elect Carter its disappointment over these reports, and its concern regarding the prospects for future negotiations. We have carefully reviewed your response, on behalf of the President, to the views expressed by the leadership of the Congress. I feel it is appropriate, at this time, to present to you the views of the Commission on Future Political Status and Transition.

Although the allegations of surveillance by the United States did not come as a complete surprise to us, we were nonetheless shocked and dismayed to learn that your Government has apparently engaged in a continuing course of surveillance over the past four years. We believe that activity of this type is wholly inconsistent with the fiduciary relationship which exists between the United States and the Trust Territory. We have always viewed the negotiations as a cooperative undertaking rather than a confrontation between two diplomatic opponents. In our view, these actions indicate instead that the United States has maintained a steadfast adversarial posture throughout the course of the negotiations.

The Hon. Philip H. Hanks
February 8, 1957
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Although we appreciate the spirit of cooperation expressed in your reply to the leadership of the Congress, we note that you fail to address the very issue which caused the leadership to communicate with the President, the alleged surveillance. This matter constitutes a serious impediment to progress in future negotiations, and must, therefore, be dealt with in a forthright manner in order to dispel the suspicions and distrust which the allegations have engendered.

Specifically, the Commission would like to know what knowledge you had and presently have regarding these activities. It is also essential that the Commission be informed as to whether the United States intends to engage in surveillance during future negotiations. In order to restore the atmosphere of mutual respect and cooperation which your message to the leadership of the Congress embraces, the Commission must receive a full accounting of any surveillance activities which have been conducted in the past, and must be assured that no such activities will be undertaken in the future.

It is our sincere hope that the United States will take all steps necessary to remove the understandable distrust created by the alleged surveillance activities, and will approach future negotiations with the respect, good will, and understanding reflected in your message to the leadership of the Congress.

We would appreciate receiving your response as soon as possible.

Sincerely yours,

ANDREW L. WALKER
Chairman