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ON
FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS AND TRANSITION
P.O. BOX 228 CHR8
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April 13, 1977

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Mr. Philip W. Manhard
Acting Representative for
Micronesian Status Negotiations
Office for Micronesian Status Negotiations
Department of Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Manhard:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter of March 15, 1977, responding to mine of February 8, 1977, regarding United States CIA activities in Micronesia.

When the Commission approved the text of our February 8th letter regarding the reported CIA activities in Micronesia, it did so with the hope that the matter can be dealt with in a forthright manner, so as to dispell the suspicions and distrust engendered by the allegations which have constituted a serious impediment to progress in the negotiations. I regret to have to say that your letter did not fully respond to the requests made to you, and failed to deal with the matter in a forthright manner.

The Commission's letter of February 8th was quite clear as to what information was being sought. The Commission wants to know what knowledge you had or presently have regarding the reported CIA activities in Micronesia. It requested an accurate accounting of CIA activities in Micronesia during the past several years. I am sure that after a review of our letter of February 8th and your response of March 15th you will reach the same conclusion, as we have, that you have not fully responded to the Commission's requests. I sincerely hope that you will make another effort to be responsive to our requests.

You made reference to a State Department's letter on behalf of Secretary Vance. I believe you were referring to the letter of February 26, 1977, from Mr. William H. Gleysteen addressed to Mr. James T. Stovall, which, unfortunately, failed to respond fully to the requests made by Micronesian leaders to Secretary Vance on January 17, 1977. In this connection, I enclose copy of the response from President Fesiwo Nakayama and Speaker Bethwel Henry which makes it abundantly clear that Gleysteen's letter

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was unsatisfactory and unresponsive to two important requests we made of Secretary Vance on January 17th. It, therefore, cannot be correctly asserted that Secretary Vance has fully responded to the Micronesian requests. As you know, I participated in the January 17th meeting with Secretary Vance and can vouch for the fact that the Secretary did say he would inform the Micronesian Leadership of the identity of any informant or informants connected with the Joint Committee on Future Status, the Congress of Micronesia or the Trust Territory Government as soon as the facts are known.

Your assertion that the CIA activity did not influence the substance of the negotiations must remain just that -- an assertion -- for there are other conclusions to the contrary. Obviously, there are divided opinions on this question. I do not believe that any assertion one way or the other can eliminate the suspicions and distrust that has been the inevitable result. It is abundantly clear, however, that the present draft Compact is faced with a very serious problem of credibility as a result of the CIA activities. Unless the problem is dealt with in a forthright manner, with goodwill, respect and understanding, any future document will also be faced with the very same serious problem of credibility.

Finally, you have stated that "this unfortunate problem should be relegated to the past." I must respectfully disagree with you on this point, not only because you are asking for an unbearable degree of tolerance, but also because I sincerely believe that future negotiations can only be constructive if the present problem with the attendant suspicion and distrust are eliminated in a candid manner. Our future relationship cannot and must not be built on shaky and questionable past experiences. You and I and our governments have the duty and responsibility to our people to make certain that the "goodwill" and "friendship" which you referred to in your letter as presently existing "between our people" remains so and shall never again be shaken by any questionable procedure. In this connection, I herewith transmit formally to you the position taken by the Committee on Future Status of the Commission with respect to future negotiations. It represents the firm and current position of the Committee and I am certain that the Committee's position can only be changed after those issues have been dealt with satisfactorily. The report which Secretary Vance undertook to make to us regarding CIA activities must be

Mr. Marshall

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received by the Committee. It is considered a change in its present position. It is to be hoped that the Secretary's promise will be fulfilled, especially to avoid repetition of past experience of unfulfilled promises and commitment. We can only hope that it is a courageous example of what we can expect in our future relationship.

Sincerely yours,

ANDREW L. MARSHALL
Chairman

Enclosures