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MISS. COMM. NO. 7-88
(House of Rep.)

August 22, 1977

Honorable Tosiwo Nakayama
President of the Senate
and
Honorable Bethwel Henry
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Seventh Congress of Micronesia

Dear Mr. President and Mr. Speaker,

We, the Speakers of the Legislatures of the Districts of Kosrae, Yap, Ponape and Truk, wish to express our unity with one another and our support of the Congress of Micronesia.

Subsequent to the signing of the Constitution of the Federated States of Micronesia and the initialling of the draft Compact of Free Association, the unity of Micronesia and the role of the Congress of Micronesia have been questioned from within and without Micronesia.

We believe it is timely and proper, as representatives of people with historical and cultural bonds, to reaffirm our common desire to live together in support of our national institutions in order to protect and promote the general welfare of our people, now and in the future. It is our hope that the Congress of Micronesia will take meaningful action to bring harmony to our islands of Micronesia.

The delay in the decentralization of government functions, the resolution of our future political status, the implementation of basic infrastructure requirements, and the economic development of our islands have caused disenchantment with the Congress of Micronesia and the future political and economic union of the islands of Micronesia. Unfortunately, the Congress has been criticized for these delays on many occasions when the cause of the delays is from without Micronesia. The Congress is a young assembly representing people who have yet to define their future role in the Pacific and in the World. Its powers are minimal in light of the powers of the Administering Authority represented by the High Commissioner. To criticize the Congress for the delays in the attainment of self-determination and economic development is to ignore the source of powers and decisions in Micronesia.

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It is our belief that demands for separation from Micronesia are due to the strong centralized territorial government established by the Administering Authority. There has been an expression in the districts for more autonomy in government at the district level. It is imperative that the Congress take decisive action in approving charters for district governments and enacting legislation to transfer powers now exercised by the territorial government to the district governments. Along with the decentralization of powers must come the re-allocation of revenues so that the districts may have the financial resources to exercise these powers in a responsible and effective manner. It is certainly timely for the Congress to primarily concern itself with matters of territorial and international significance while deferring to the districts in matters of intradistrict concern.

The Congress, and now the Commission on Future Political Status and Transition, are recognized by the people of our districts as our representatives in future political status talks with the United States. It is our desire that the Congress and the Commission continually review their actions of the past and their mandate for the future to achieve even greater recognition and support from the people of Micronesia. This recognition and support will follow responsive and assertive actions by the Congress and the Commission.

We commend the Congress for its actions in attempting to secure the natural resources within Micronesian waters for its people consistent with the 1976 Micronesia Declaration on the Law of the Sea.

We commend the Congress for initiating the indicative development plans and request further assistance in their implementation at the district level.

We commend the Congress for its vigorous efforts to provide a basic infrastructure for the islands of Micronesia, essential to economic and social development.

We urge the Congress to continue its efforts to secure self-determination and economic development for the people of Micronesia and pledge our continued support. Consistent with this support, we request the Congress to work with us in a manner of mutual trust and understanding.

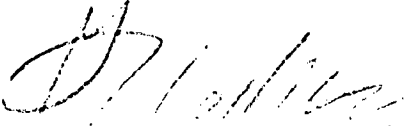
It is our opinion that communication and cooperation between the districts and with the Congress would improve through increased dialogue among members of the district legislatures and the Congress of Micronesia.

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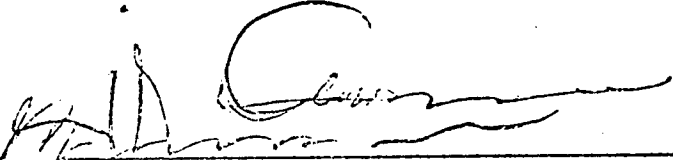
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We offer our assistance in promoting such a dialogue with the belief it will be to the benefit of the Congress, the district legislatures and the people of Micronesia.

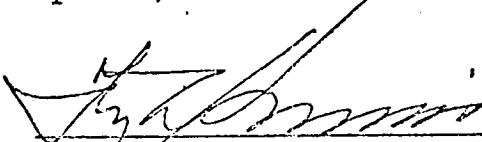
Sincerely yours,



Gaius Nedlic
Speaker, Kosrae District Legislature



Joachim Falmog
Speaker, Yap District Legislature



Itor A. Harris
Speaker, Ponape District Legislature



Koichi Sana
Speaker, Truk District Legislature

cc: Speaker, Marshall Islands Nitijela
Speaker, Palau District Legislature
Commission on Future Political Status and Transition