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SEVENTH CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

AYO

H.B. NO. 7-301

DATE AUG 25, 1977

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Calling for a conference of representatives of non-governmental organizations from throughout the Trust Territory to discuss and formulate positions on the Future Status of Micronesia; setting the guidelines for such a conference; appropriating funds therefore; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA:

1 Section 1. Not later than December, 1977, the President of
 2 the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the
 3 Congress of Micronesia are hereby authorized and mandated to call
 4 and convene a conference of representatives of recognized non-
 5 governmental organizations from throughout Micronesia in accordance
 6 with the provisions of this act. The conference shall be known as
 7 the "Peoples Status Convention" and may be held either in Truk or Ponape
 8 District, as the Presiding Officers of the Congress of the Congress
 9 of Micronesia may specify, after taking into account the amount
 10 of funds available hereinafter appropriated, the time involved,
 11 and other related factors. Contingent upon funds provided by
 12 this act, the Convention shall meet for a period not to exceed
 13 10 calendar days.

14 Section 2. The purpose of the Convention shall be to provide
 15 representatives of recognized non-governmental organizations with
 16 an opportunity to discuss, express their views and formulate
 17 positions on the issues surrounding the Future Status of Micro-
 18 nesia.

19 Section 3. Selection of participants in the Convention
 20 shall be made according to the following procedures:

21 (a) The Presiding Officers shall select a convening date
 22 for the convention and shall see to it that detailed notices as
 23 to the convening date, locale, and purpose of the convention are
 24 widely publicized throughout Micronesia beginning not less than
 25 sixty days prior to the convening of the Convention.

1 (b) Authorized representatives of recognized non-
2 governmental organizations including but not limited to: churches,
3 civic clubs, chambers of commerce, political associations, social
4 and youth groups and student associations shall then write to the
5 Presiding Officers requesting that one representative of their
6 organization be invited to attend the Convention at government
7 expense.

8 (c) The Presiding Officers shall make a study of projected
9 costs, the number of applicants and the amount of funds available
10 for transportation costs, and based upon such study shall determine
11 the number of authorized representatives of non-governmental
12 organizations who can be formally invited to attend the Convention
13 at government expense. In no event shall government funds be
14 used to pay per diem, board, car rental, etc. for the invitees.
15 Rather the government funds which are allotted to those selected
16 as invitees shall be expended to cover their transportation and
17 room expenses only. Invitees will be expected to bear all costs
18 other than transportation and room expenses themselves.

19 (d) Once the Presiding Officers have determined how
20 many representatives can be formally invited at government expense,
21 they shall make a selection from among those groups which have
22 applied to be invited and shall notify each group which is selected
23 to in turn choose its representative for attendance at the Con-
24 vention. Such groups shall also begin to formulate topics and
25 approaches regarding the status issue and shall submit their

1 written positions through representatives during the Convention.

2 (e) The size, stature, authority, legitimacy, and dur-
3 ation in existence of each given group are among the factors
4 which will be weighed by the Presiding Officers in deciding which
5 groups will be invited to send a representative at government
6 expense.

7 (f) Any recognized non-governmental organization shall
8 be entitled to send a representative to fully participate in the
9 Convention should it desire to do so, and this shall be true
10 regardless of whether sufficient funds exist such that said rep-
11 resentative may be invited at government expense. In this event
12 however, the burden shall be on the organization to fund the
13 participation of its representative.

14 (g) With regard to those invited representatives whose
15 transportation and room at the Convention are funded by the government
16 every effort will be made to insure that an equal number of such
17 invitees is selected from each of the six districts of Micronesia.

18 Section 4. The staff of the Congress of Micronesia shall be
19 made available to provide administrative and technical assistance
20 if so requested by the participants in the Convention.

21 Section 5. The Presiding Officers shall appoint a Convention
22 coordinator who shall conduct preliminary organizational work for
23 the Convention, promulgate temporary rules of procedure for the
24 Convention and shall preside as temporary chairman of the first
25 day session of the Convention; provided, however, that the Con-

1 vention participants themselves shall take full control of all
2 aspects of the Convention from second day onward.

3 Section 6. The participants in the Convention shall prepare
4 a report on the proceedings of the Convention for transmittal to
5 the Second Regular Session of the Seventh Congress of Micronesia.

6 Section 7. There is hereby appropriated the sum of
7 \$30,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary, from the General
8 Fund of the Congress of Micronesia to carry out the provisions
9 of this act. The funds herein appropriated shall be expended by
10 the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Rep-
11 resentatives of the Congress of Micronesia for payment of costs
12 connected with or incidental to the holding of such a Convention,
13 and include the costs of transportation and room of invitees,
14 meeting hall rental, representation and the expenses of staffing
15 such Convention. In no event shall any such funds be expended
16 for per diem or car rental for invitees. Any balance unexpended
17 and unobligated for expenditure on March 31, 1978, shall revert
18 to General Fund of the Congress of Micronesia.

19 Section 8. This act shall take effect upon the approval
20 of the High Commissioner or upon its becoming law without such
21 approval.

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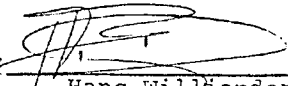
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Date Aug. 25/77

Introduced by:


Hans Willander