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CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 7-10

AUGUST 29, 1977

RE: S.B. NO. 7-123, SD1, HD1

The Honorable Tosiwo Nakayama
President of the Senate

and

The Honorable Bethwel Henry
Speaker, House of Representatives
Seventh Congress of Micronesia
First Special Session, 1977

Dear Sirs:

Your Conference Committee, to which was referred Senate Bill No. 7-123, SD1, HD1, entitled:

S.B. No. 7-123, SD1, HD1, "A BILL FOR AN ACT AMENDING PUBLIC LAW NO. 6-87, AS AMENDED, RELATING TO THE COMMISSION ON FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS AND TRANSITION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.",

begs leave to report as follows:

The main differences between the House and Senate versions of S.B. No. 7-123, SD1, HD1, center on the mandate of the Commission on Future Political Status and Transition under section 4 of the bill. On page 5, beginning on line 21 of the bill, SD1, the Senate's version reads: "(4) The Commission shall be the exclusive representative of the Congress of Micronesia to negotiate in its behalf multilaterally on future status issues affecting all districts of Micronesia." The House deleted the word "districts" and inserted in lieu thereof the following: "islands or group of islands of Micronesia." On page 5, line 24, HD1 remains as follows: "(5) The Commission shall be authorized to negotiate bilaterally with respect to issues affecting individual district interests, and may accept the

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designation by one or more district legislatures to be their representative in such negotiations.

Your Conference Committee concludes that if Public Law No. 6-87 is amended so that the Commission shall be the exclusive representative of the Congress of Micronesia to negotiate in its behalf multilaterally on future status issues affecting all islands or groups of islands, that it may not make much sense to then abandon such islands or groups of islands at the bilateral "tier" of negotiations. Accordingly, your Conference Committee concluded that the Commission shall be the exclusive representative of the Congress of Micronesia to negotiate in its behalf bilaterally and multilaterally on future status issues affecting all districts, islands or groups of islands of Micronesia.

On HD1, page 6, beginning with line 3, the Congress is committed to "adopt and annex to any approved agreement respecting the future status of Micronesia such related agreements that may be concluded from time to time addressing interests of individual districts which shall remain a part of a Federated States of Micronesia." S.D.1 did not contain the last phrase which shall remain a part of a Federated States of Micronesia. The Senate's version intended only to effectuate a formality, since an agreement concluded directly between the U.S. and any district would contravene the all-inclusive jurisdiction of the Congress in Secretarial Order No. 2918. The House's amendment raises some issues which undermine the value of this provision. Your Conference Committee feels that this provision should be deleted entirely.

Your Conference Committee has made the following amendments to S.B. No. 7-123, SD1, HD1, as follows:

1. Page 5, line 22, between the words "behalf" and "multilaterally" insert the following: "bilaterally and".
2. Page 5, line 23, delete the word "all", insert in lieu thereof the following: "districts," and add the letter "s" after the letter "p" in the word "group".
3. Page 5, beginning with line 24, delete subsection (5) in its entirety.
4. Page 6, beginning with line 3, delete subsection (6) in its entirety.

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RE: S.B. NO. 7-123, SD1, HD1

Your Conference Committee is in accord with Senate Bill No. 7-123, SD1, HD1, as amended, and recommends that it be passed in the form attached hereto as Senate Bill No. 7-123, SD1, HD1, CD1.

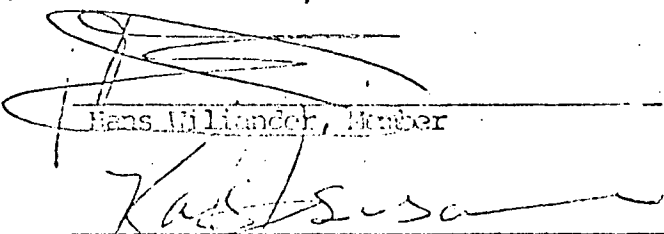
Respectfully submitted,

Petrus Tun, Member

Bailey Olter, Member

Lambert Aafin, Member

Hans Willander, Member



Kasuo Isisaki, Member