

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

8/4

Mr. Lemmon

Larry -

This looks fine. I  
have only the one  
suggested change I  
marked on the draft.

W. J. Rounnel has copies  
and is checking it with  
State, Defense & Defense.

Chuck J.

Dear Mr. Speaker:

The principle of government by consent of the governed is the foundation of democracy.

Today, I urge the Congress to join me in taking a further step toward self-determination for the 93,000 <sup>Micronesian</sup> people who live in the ~~Micronesian Islands~~ the Marianas, Carolines and Marshalls <sup>Islands that comprise the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.</sup> The United States administers this trust territory through a 1947 agreement with the United Nations. Under that responsibility we have encouraged the Micronesians to participate fully in determining their own future and shaping their own free institutions.

I am sure the Congress shares my deep interest in the status and well-being of Micronesia. Congress approved the original trusteeship agreement and has supervised our administration of the islands. Last year the Congress supported an intensive program to promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the islands.

In 1966, the people of the territory, acting through their popularly elected legislature, called upon the President of the United States to create a Commission to consider their future status.

I am happy to honor their request. The Joint Resolution I am submitting will establish such a Commission.

The Commission will study and assess all of the factors bearing on the future of the trust territory. It will consult with the people of Micronesia. And it will make its recommendations to the President and to the Congress within eight months after its work begins.

I ask the Congress to join with the Executive Branch in this vital undertaking by authorizing the appointment of eight members of the Congress to serve on the Commission, along with eight members selected by the President.

Through this Commission, we once again have an opportunity to reaffirm our national commitment to the ideals of democracy and self-determination.

I am attaching a detailed statement of the Secretary of Interior who, together with the Secretaries of State and Defense, join with me in urging prompt approval of this important resolution.