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October 18, 1969

President Richard M. Nixon
The White House
Washington, D.C.

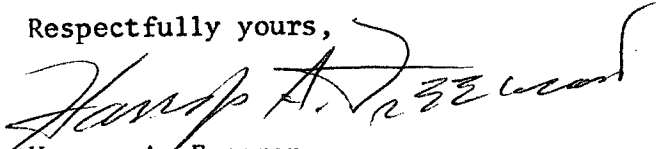
Dear Mr. President,

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The Micronesian Delegation on the future political status of Micronesia has been meeting during the past three weeks with the American Delegation chaired by Harrison Loesch, Assistant Secretary of Interior. At this point it would appear that most of the questions with regard to future status and relationship with the United States and the United Nations are being spelled out in principle and can later be implemented in detail. I believe that the handling of the detailed drafts of executive agreements, treaties or statutes will probably be left by the Micronesians in my hands when they return to Micronesia. If the United States so desires I shall try to work out as much of this as possible before I leave for Micronesia in late December.

There is one matter that everyone seems agreed ought not to be determined by the Delegation except in the statement of the broadest principle, namely that the United States will settle and pay all claims of Micronesia against the United States in any capacity and will aid in settling claims against Japan or other governments. As to the proof of the amount of those claims and the negotiations as to the amount and kinds of settlement, that is a legal matter which will be left with me. Again, I shall be glad to proceed as far and as rapidly as the United States may desire. It may be necessary, unless we can concede the approximate amount of claims, that final figures cannot be arrived at until I visit the various districts of Micronesia in January, where committees will have been accumulating their list of claimed damages and until I have been in Japan in February to consider the Micronesian claims against Japan. I appreciate any guidance that can be given me on these matters. In particular, I would appreciate any advice as to whether there is a central authority in the United States government with which I should take up all of the claims or whether some ad hoc committee will be set up with which I can negotiate.

Respectfully yours,


Harrop A. Freeman

HAF/pc

cc: Dr. Henry A. Kissinger