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Fred K. Fof

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March 10, 1970

Dr. Henry A. Kissinger
 Advisor to the President
 of the United States
 The White House
 Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Kissinger:

It has been several months since I have written to you concerning Micronesia. Although I have not been back to the Islands since August of 1969, I have recently had the pleasure of having Senator Bailey Olter of the Congress of Micronesia as a house guest. Senator Olter is a long time friend and a man who, I believe, is probably the most powerful member of the Congress of Micronesia. He has served in the Congress as a Senator since its formation. He is Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee and is a member of the Political Status Commission.

Following Senator Olter's visit, I thought it important to inform you of what I feel to be the present desires of the political leaders of Micronesia concerning their future role with the United States.

Their present move is toward independence with perhaps some loose association with the United States which could be terminated, any time by either party.

There is nothing the United States can do in the way of increased economic development and increased federal spending, even to the point of some type of association which could ultimately lead to Statehood, which would change them from their present course for Independence.

To carry out this plan, they have invited, back to Micronesia, Professor James W. Davidson, Professor of Pacific History from the Australian National University.

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Professor Davidson has acted in the past as an advisor to the leaders of Nauru in setting up their government. He has also been involved with the formation of the government of Western Samoa and Cook Islands, after they ceased to be Trust Territories of New Zealand.

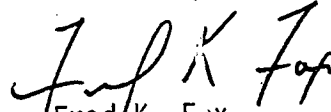
Also at this time, an attorney by the name of Freeman who had been working with the delegation from Micronesia during the October meetings with the Department of Interior, is traveling throughout the outer Islands and the Districts on a local island freighter making personal contacts with traditional leaders on the outer Islands and in the District Centers. Mr. Freeman was the attorney which Secretary Hickel's office requested be removed from the position as legal advisor to the Micronesian delegation. This was done against the wishes of the Micronesian delegation.

The Islanders seem to be extremely pleased with the attitude of Assistant Secretary Harrison Loesch and his assistant Tom Whittington. The Assistant Secretary has been able to correct many of the minor points which have been agitating the Micronesians for years. He has been able to do this through the advice of Tom Whittington who is an ex-Peace Corps lawyer and has served with the Congress of Micronesia during the last several sessions.

I sincerely doubt, however, that Assistant Secretary Loesch's popularity will continue if and when the time comes that he will have to make hard decisions. I feel that the United States should be prepared to accept Micronesia as an Independent Nation with only weak lines of attachment to the United States or we should be prepared to make hard decisions.

I hope that this information will be of some assistance to you and I am very sorry that this is the type of information which I have to pass on. I think that it is essential that I tell it like it is.

Yours very truly,


Fred K. Fox