



# Congress of Micronesia

CAPITAL HILL

SAIPAN

MARIANA ISLANDS

96950

April 29, 1970

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The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

I represent the people of Yap in the Congress of Micronesia. My people and the others in Micronesia have been told what to do by outsiders for the last hundred years. We were full of happiness and hope last year when you sent Secretary Hickel to us to describe your program for political and economic development of our islands. It seemed to us to be a good program, one to support the dignity and aspirations of our people. We have very limited economic resources in our islands, Mr. President. One of them is tourism because of the beauty of our land and sea. We, in Yap, as in the other districts of the Trust Territory, want to see tourism developed in a way that does not destroy our ancient culture. The only certain way of insuring that is by participation in the ownership and decision-making of the elements of the tourism industry.

We were fortunate several years ago that the successful applicant, Continental Airlines, for the airline franchise in the Trust Territory, organized an affiliated company, Air Micronesia, to operate the internal air service in the Trust Territory. United Micronesia Development Association, Inc., a Trust Territory corporation, with significant share ownership by the Yap Cooperative and individual Yapese and with a Yap director, owns 49 per cent of Air Micronesia. It has options which in the near future will give it ownership of 60 per cent of Air Micronesia. Also, the franchised carrier, Continental Airlines, is building six hotels, one in each district. Here, too, Micronesians will be able to invest in each hotel. We think that this kind of arrangement is the only real protection we can have against having tourism and other practices forced on us against our will.

Two Yapese are among the group of Micronesians that have been sponsored by Continental/Air Micronesia for aircraft mechanic training in Honolulu. The day they pass their FAA tests to become a licensed mechanic will be both a proud day for us in Yap and a day of gratitude that Continental is keeping its promise to train future Air Micronesia personnel in all phases of airline operation.

Mr. President, our resources are few. If we cannot share in their management, we face a most unpleasant future. We fervently hope that you will see that this opportunity to share in management of the air transportation resource in Micronesia is respected and we and our partner, Continental Airlines, may continue to serve Yap and the other districts in the U.S. Trust Territory.

Yours faithfully,



John Hangerel  
Member, House of Representatives

cc: Secretary of State  
Secretary of Interior