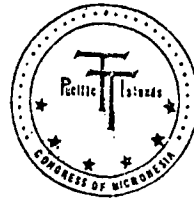


Congress of Micronesia

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April 29, 1970

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

Last May you sent Secretary Hickel to the Trust Territory to give us a message about your new principles for political and economic development of Micronesia. We learned that you wanted the people of Micronesia to be consulted about every step taken out here, that there would be a "partnership" and a removal of barriers to travel of Micronesians for education and "business purposes."

In one of our major resources - transportation and communications - we now have just such a partnership, of which we are very proud. It is Air Micronesia, 49 per cent owned by a Trust Territory corporation with 1,120 Micronesian stockholders. We have now and will continue to have, subject to your support, a full partnership in our own local service internal air-line.

Two United States airlines presently have the majority of 51 per cent of the shares in Air Micronesia. When our options are exercised in 1972 and 1974, they will have a minority interest but will continue to be partners with us. Additionally, they have cooperated with us in employment and training and in use of private Micronesian businesses and organizations.

We think it would be tragic for your program and ours if this progress in partnership were destroyed by transferring the air service in and through the Trust Territory from Continental and Air Micronesia to new carriers. If Air Micronesia is washed out, it will be interpreted by Micronesians as an indication that Micronesians are not entitled to a voice or participation in the economic development of their Territory.

We earnestly hope you will insure that the Air Micronesia/Continental partnership, which guarantees a Micronesian economic future in Trust Territory transportation, be continued.

Yours,

Benjamin Manglona
Chairman, House Committee
Resources and Developmentcc: Secretary of State
Secretary of Interior