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OPEN LETTER TO PRESIDENT NIXON FROM ULITHI

Yap Outer Islands Students
c/o Post Office Box DO
Agana Guam 96910

Mr. Richard Milhous Nixon
President of the United States
Washington D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. President:

It is a great pleasure that we, the students from such a poor island as Ulithi, are sending you this letter. We feel it is very necessary to call your attention, and to let you know how we feel the Micronesians have been betrayed by a few people who are working under the flag of the United States of America.

Mr. President, please listen to us. We are not Hippies, we are not Revolutionaries, but ordinary high school and college students. We are from Ulithi Island. We are here on Guam studying in order to go back and help our people. One of the ways in which we can help our people is to write this letter to you.

Our Ulithian-native chiefs have written to us and asked us to beg your help since we were not satisfied by the answers we have been receiving from the Department of the Interior. And so in the name of all our chiefs, and our people, and many more Micronesians, if not every single citizen of the Trust Territory Islands, please, Mr. President, help us to get our God-given human rights by which we can live as happy citizens under your protection and administration.

Hearings are now taking place in Washington regarding War Claims Settlement for the people of Micronesia. We are asking as well as begging you to stop these hearings at once. The facts are not yet being made known.

Here is the way the sad story goes. In May 1970 we, the undersigned students, wrote a letter to Mr. Walter J. Hickel, Secretary of the Interior, explaining to him that it would be silly for the U.S. Congress to pass any bill regarding War Claims in Micronesia until surveys have been made throughout the whole of Micronesia to learn the cost of the actual damage done by World War II. Mr. President, this has never been done.

The reply from the Secretary of the Interior, through Elizabeth P. Farrington, was no reply at all and did not taken into consideration the things we mentioned to him. Here is a portion of his letter by which we were given this information: "On March 26, this Administration sent to the Congress a proposed joint resolution 'To authorize an ex gratia contribution to certain inhabitants of the Trust Territory... ..who suffered damages during the Second World War, and to establish a Micronesian Claims Commission.'"