



Congress of Micronesia

CAPITOL HILL

SAIPAN

MARIANA ISLANDS

96950

SENATE

PRESIDENT
Amata Kabua

December 1, 1972

MARIANAS DISTRICT
Olympio T. Borja
Edward DLG. Pangellinan

MARSHALLS DISTRICT
Amata Kabua
Isaac K. Lanwi

PALAU DISTRICT
Lazarus Salli
Roman Tmetuchi

PONAPE DISTRICT
Bailey Otter
Ambilos Iehsi

TRUK DISTRICT
Tosiwo Nakayama
Andon Amaralch

YAP DISTRICT
Petrus Tun
Rafel Moonfell

The Honorable Richard M. Nixon
President, United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear President Nixon:

At this crucial phase in Micronesia's development toward self-government, we would like to bring to your attention a matter which we feel deserves serious and immediate attention by the United States of America as Administering Authority of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

The matter to which we refer is the selection of the highest officials in the executive and judicial branches of the Trust Territory Government. We believe that in consideration of the past progress made in our political development and in view of the exigencies of such future development that it has now become essential--if not mandatory--to select qualified Micronesian citizens in such high positions, and to solicit the advice of the legislative branch of the Trust Territory Government regarding such selections.

The Congress of Micronesia, under the authority vested in it by Public Law No. 4C-48, and as amended by Public Law 4C-91, may now render to the executive branch its "Advice and Consent" on major appointments of the High Commissioner including all Directors of their departments and their deputies, and all District Administrators and their deputies. We would also respectfully refer you to House Joint Resolution No. 77, adopted during the Second Regular Session of the Fourth Congress of Micronesia, which requests that the legislative branch play a greater part in the selection of the High Commissioner, the Deputy High Commissioner and the Chief and Associate Justices of the Trust Territory.

In consideration of the past responsible actions of the Congress in this regard, the availability of qualified

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SPEAKER
Bethwel Henry

MARIANAS DISTRICT
Felipe Atallig
Herman Guerrero
Carlos Shoda

MARSHALLS DISTRICT
Ataji Batos
Charles Domnick
Henry Samuel
Ekap SIK

PALAU DISTRICT
Polycarp Basilus
Tarkong Pedro
Timothy Oikerili

PONAPE DISTRICT
Bethwel Henry
Heinrich Iriarte
Otter Paul
Joab Sigrah

TRUK DISTRICT
Endy Dois
Sasauo Haruo
Masao Nakayama
Ray Setik
Hans Willander

YAP DISTRICT
John Mangefei
John Ruguilmar

The Honorable Richard M. Nixon

2.

Micronesian administrators, the fact that the executive branch of the U.S. Government may soon be reorganized and particularly in consideration of the mandates of the agreement between the United States and the United Nations regarding the former Japanese mandated islands, we would thus now like to respectfully request that the United States Government give serious consideration to appointing Micronesian citizens to the positions of High Commissioner, Deputy High Commissioner and the Chief and Associate Justices of the Trust Territory Government. In addition, we believe that the legislative branch of the Government should be involved either directly, through advice and consent, or at a minimum, through informal advice and recommendation relative to such appointments. We are thoroughly convinced of the equity of the democratic process under which Micronesia has been governed by the United States during the past quarter of a century. We are also aware of the many examples in the history of the governments of the nations of the world, including that of the United States of America, where rule imposed by those other than the people being governed is not only onerous, but inequitable to the governed. The continuance of such imposed administration in the past has more often than not led to resentment, revolt, and revolution. We do not espouse such disturbing courses, neither do we contemplate their emergence relative to the administration of the Trust Territory. We feel certain that the people of Micronesia fully embrace the principles of the democratic processes to resolve whatever obstacles or encumbrances which many constrain them in reaching the goals of self-government and self-determination. We say this because we consider it self-evident the past political progress made by the people of Micronesia through the orderly and lawful processes of petitions, resolutions, and laws. We thus see the appointment--and eventual election--of Micronesians to these positions as logical and inevitable, in consonance with the principles of democracy and the mandates of the Trusteeship Agreement. We might also note that our advocacy of appointment of Micronesians is not specifically linked to dissatisfaction with the present American administrators, but rather to the sure knowledge that Micronesia must be administered by Micronesians--sooner, rather than later--and that an appointed official, no matter how sincere and involved he may be, cannot have the same acuity of feeling for a country that a person does who is born, lives and dies in that country.


In short, Mr. President, we believe it is time for Micronesia to take another important step forward toward self-government. We assert this in the positive sense of the words of the great British statesman David Lloyd George: "Liberty is not merely a privilege to be conferred; it is a habit to be acquired."

The Honorable Richard M. Nixon

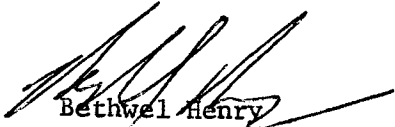
3.

Your response regarding our proposals at your convenience is respectfully solicited.

Sincerely yours,



Amata Kabua
President, Senate
Congress of Micronesia



Bethwel Henry
Speaker, House of Representatives
Congress of Micronesia

- cc: The Honorable Rogers C. B. Morton
Secretary, The Department of the Interior

- The Honorable President
The United Nations Trusteeship Council

- Chairman, Senate Committee on
Interior and Insular Affairs

- Chairman, House of Representatives
Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs

- The Honorable Stanley S. Carpenter
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Territorial Affairs

- The Honorable Franklin Haydn Williams
Presidential Ambassador
Office of Micronesian Status Negotiations

- The Honorable Edward E. Johnston
High Commissioner, Trust Territory
of the Pacific Islands

- The Honorable Lazarus Salii
Chairman, Joint Committee on Future Status

- All Senators and all Representatives
Congress of Micronesia

Hof

12/16 EXECUTIVE ST51

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

To: The Secretary of the Interior

Date: December 15, 1972

ACTION REQUESTED

- Draft reply for:
 - President's signature.
 - Undersigned's signature.
- Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.
- Direct reply.
- Furnish information copy.
- Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.
- Furnish copy of reply, if any.
- For your information.
- For comment.

NOTE

Prompt action is essential.

If more than 72 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately, Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

REMARKS:

bcc: ✓ Frederic V. Malek, Special Assistant to the President
John Campbell, Domestic Council

Description:

Letter: Telegram: Other:

To: The President
 From: Amata Kabua, President, Senate; Bethwel Henry, Speaker, House of Representatives, Congress of Micronesia, Saipan, Mariana Is.
 Date: 12/1/72
 Subject: Re selection of highest officials in the Executive and judicial branches of the Trust Territory Government.

By direction of the President:

Michael B. Smith
Staff Assistant

rah

(Copy to remain with correspondence)