



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

March 21, 1973

The Honorable
Edward E. Johnston
High Commissioner
Trust Territory of the
Pacific Islands
The Capital
Saipan, Mariana Islands, 96950

Dear Ed:

The March 5-9, 1973 edition of the MNS "Weekly Review" just reached us here. The lead story on the U.N. Visiting Mission contains the following:

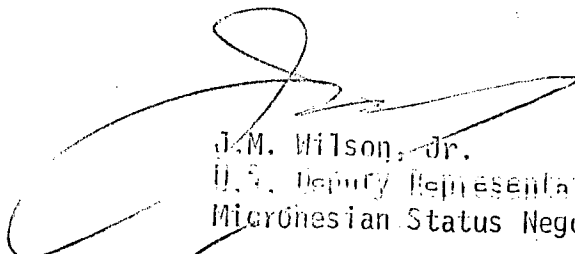
"Mayor Antonio Atalig stated that the Rota Municipal Council supports the talks between the Congress of Micronesia's Joint Committee on Future Status and the U.S., and not the separate Marianas talks, because the people of Rota were not consulted about the establishment of the Marianas Status Commission."

While there apparently may have been some confusion at the time regarding what was actually said, subsequent review of the tapes certainly does not support the MNS version, which is flatly contradicted by Mayor Atalig's letter to the U.N. Visiting Mission Chairman and the resolution of the Municipal Council.

I would hope in view of the political sensitivity of this issue that MNS could publish a correction just as soon as possible.

With all best personal regards.

Sincerely,


J.M. Wilson, Jr.
U.S. Deputy Representative for
Micronesian Status Negotiations



cc: S.S.Carpenter-Rm 4313

JMW:mw: 3/21/73

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JMW CHRON