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TERRITORY OF GUAM

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

9-19-73
COMMITTEE:
INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEES:
TERRITORIAL AND INSULAR
AFFAIRS
NATIONAL PARKS AND
RECREATION
PUBLIC LANDS

September 17, 1973

BT
Honorable Richard M. Nixon
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

For some years there has been a considerable amount of interest expressed on Guam and in other areas of Micronesia for a review of the political status of the people of the Pacific Basin.

In 1969, Guam held a Constitutional Convention to explore our political goals. Although we learned much from that exercise, unfortunately the Convention lacked the sanction of Congress and your Administration.

More recent developments, such as the current status talks between the United States and the residents of the Pacific Trust Territory, which you were instrumental in bringing about, have again brought to the fore the matter of Guam's future political status. This, coupled with the continued allegations by the United Nations Subcommittee on Decolonization that the United States is failing to promote and encourage the political development of Guam, has led the Twelfth Guam Legislature and the Governor of Guam to establish within their branches, several months ago, a political status unit. The Guam Status Commission is charged with reviewing all matters which have a bearing on the present and future relations between the Federal Government and the people of Guam.

So that such action may be meaningful and fruitful, I respectfully request that you appoint a special Presidential Committee which can study the situation in concert with the elected officials of Guam, and make the

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necessary recommendations to you and to the Congress. Such a Committee might well follow the pattern now established by the present Committee to study the question with regard to the political status of Puerto Rico.

In this connection, I am pleased to transmit herewith House Concurrent Resolution 296 which I had the pleasure of introducing several days ago and which requests Congress to give "serious consideration to the political status preference of the people of Guam and to recognize the contribution of their elected representatives toward the principle of government by the consent of the governed."

*this Resolution
is not
in draft
Mr*

During your stopover visits on Guam, I am sure that you observed with some great satisfaction the pride in which the people of Guam hold their American citizenship. Our people have willingly served and died for America. In the Vietnam conflict, Guam sustained more casualties than any of the other States or Territories on a proportionate basis. Our pride and loyalty are further exemplified in my bill, House Joint Resolution 411, which would amend the Constitution of the United States to permit the residents of Guam and the Virgin Islands to vote in Presidential elections. As citizens of a free democracy, the people of Guam are now asking that their position within the framework of this great country be reviewed and improved. I trust that your support for this endeavor will be forthcoming and I would be most happy to cooperate and assist in the efforts to find a mutually agreeable solution to one of Guam's most pressing and urgent problems.

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With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,



ANTONIO B. WON PAT
Member of Congress

Enclosure



18

93d CONGRESS
1st SESSION

H. CON. RES. 296

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 12, 1973

Mr. WON PAT submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Whereas Guam was ceded to the United States by virtue of the Treaty of Paris of December 10, 1898, which ended the Spanish-American War; and

Whereas the Organic Act of 1950, enacted by the Congress of the United States, established Guam as an organized unincorporated territory of the United States, and bestowed upon its inhabitants American citizenship; and

Whereas in 1969, a constitutional convention was held in Guam to afford the people of Guam an opportunity to express their political preferences but such convention did not have official congressional recognition as it was initiated by the Guam legislature and authorized by territorial statutes; and

Whereas the Twelfth Guam Legislature recently established within itself a political status commission to review matters

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which have bearings on the present and future relationship between the Federal Government and the people of Guam; and

Whereas a round of talks was held between the personal representative of the President and the Micronesian Joint Committee on Political Status to ascertain the future political status of Micronesians following the termination of the United Nations Trusteeship Agreement; and

Whereas similar status talks are being held between representatives of the Federal Government and officials of the northern Marianas, one of the districts in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands having identical heritage, culture, and linguistic affinity with the Chamorros of Guam; and

Whereas the United Nations Subcommittee on Decolonization has consistently charged that the United States, as the administering power, has failed to promote and encourage the constitutional development of Guam toward self-government, and such allegations have been effectively refuted by the present Delegate to the United States House of Representatives in his appearance before the said subcommittee on July 11, 1973, his statements being made a part of the Congressional Record (H6372) of July 19, 1973; and

Whereas the people of Guam have continuously sought and Congress has granted the people of Guam an increasing measure of self-determination; and

Whereas the people of Guam desire closer ties with their fellow citizens on the American mainland and, having recently gained a voice in the Halls of Congress, the people of Guam have made substantial and undeniable progress toward the attainment of this goal; and



Whereas Congress recognizes that the cornerstone of our democratic system of government is the concept of self-government in which the people determine and consent to their own form of government; and

Whereas the Congress of the United States has constitutional responsibilities under article IV, section 3, to “. . . make all needful rules and regulations respecting the Territory or other property belonging to the United States,” and to define the political status of the people of Guam as provided for by article IX of the Treaty of Paris: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring), That it is the sense of the Congress that—*

3 (1) there is a need for a greater degree of self-
4 government for the people of Guam, and it is now appro-
5 priate and timely for the people of Guam to be afforded
6 the opportunity to freely express their political status
7 preference, not inconsistent with the provisions of the
8 United States Constitution;

9 (2) the work of the Guam Legislature and the
10 Governor of Guam relative to Federal-territorial rela-
11 tions legislation be recognized as a contribution toward
12 the principle of government by the consent of the
13 governed; and

14 (3) Congress will give serious consideration to the
15 recommendations of a duly constituted Guam Consti-
16 tutional Convention, to be ratified by popular vote.



- 1 Nothing in this concurrent resolution shall be construed
- 2 as a commitment by the Congress to inaugurate any move-
- 3 ment toward statehood for Guam.

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93^d CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 296

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Relative to giving serious consideration to the political status preference of the people of Guam and to recognize the contribution of their elected representatives toward the principle of government by the consent of the governed.

By Mr. WON PAT

SEPTEMBER 12, 1973
Referred to the Committee on Interior and Insular
Affairs

