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GENERAL ①
5751

September 17, 1974

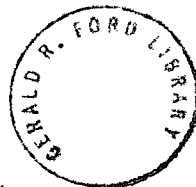
Dear Mr. Toomin: *Philip R.*

The President has asked me to reply to your letter of August 21, 1974, regarding United States administration of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and the negotiations for the future political status of the area. He also wishes to express his appreciation for your service there as a member of the Trust Territory High Court and for your continued interest in Micronesian affairs.

As you know, the negotiations presently being conducted with the Marshalls and Carolines and with the Marianas are in the hands of the Executive Branch and the responsibility of the President's Personal Representative Ambassador F. Haydn Williams. Final approval of any agreements resulting from these negotiations will involve the legislatures of the respective areas, the Micronesian and Marianas public in formal plebiscite and, of course, the U. S. Congress on behalf of the American people. Our administration of the area to date has also involved the U. S. Congress on behalf of the American people. Our administration of the area to date has also involved the U. S. Congress, most particularly in some of the sectors to which you refer such as the overall Trust Territory Federal grant, Federal program assistance and, to some extent, Trust Territory government personnel levels.

As the result of close coordination and continual consultation with the Congress and with the elected and appointed leaders in the Trust Territory, the United States Government has determined that a return of the Micronesian people to a completely traditional way of life with a subsistence economy would not meet the requirements for Micronesian growth generated by the need for a politically stable entity in the western Pacific, local desires, United States national and security policy and United Nations concerns. It has for the past decade been our goal to assist the Micronesian peoples in joining the family of Pacific nations while not transgressing the boundaries of either local absorptive capacity or United States budgetary constraints. While we would not

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state categorically that all of our programs have been totally successful, it is certain that we have proceeded as quickly and as far as the Micronesians themselves have been prepared to move. We plan to continue our efforts and programs in this direction.

You may be assured that the United States administration of the Trust Territory is under constant review at the policymaking levels of this Government and we are putting our best efforts into melding a plethora of needs, priorities and goals into unified, coordinated and fiscally responsible policy decisions.

Sincerely,

Norman E. Ross, Jr.
Assistant Director
Domestic Council

Mr. Philip R. Toomin
120 South LaSalle Street
Chicago, Illinois 60603

NROSS/ee

cc: White House Files

