



FRIENDS OF THE EARTH, INC. 529 COMMERCIAL SAN FRANCISCO CALIFORNIA 94111

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Dear Friend:

At this crucial moment the U.S. Congress is considering a bill to annex the Northern Mariana Islands in Micronesia, granting them Commonwealth status. As you probably know, Friends of the Earth has been lobbying in Washington to defeat this measure, which would open up these fragile islands to exploitation by economic and U.S. military interests.

In Micronesia: Island Wilderness, a book published last month by Friends of the Earth and Seabury Press, Kenneth Brower and Robert Wenkam make an eloquent plea for an equitable future for the people and land of Micronesia. In this, their third collaboration, the authors explore the culture of these people, and their relationship to the exotic landscape and seascape that surrounds them.

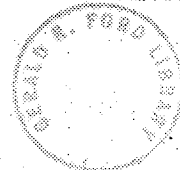
This meticulously produced, large-format book contains 61 full-color photographs, and was lithographed by the high-quality printing house, Mondadori Editore in Verona, Italy. Micronesia: Island Wilderness is one volume in the series begun by Friends of the Earth founder, David Brower, when he was Executive Director of the Sierra Club. This series has won much critical acclaim, including the Carey-Thomas Award for "the outstanding achievement in creative publishing in the United States."

Robert Wenkam is one of the foremost photographers of the Pacific basin, having written and photographed Kauai and the Park Country of Hawaii for Sierra Club Books, as well as Maui: The Last Hawaiian Place, on which he collaborated with Kenneth Brower for Friends of the Earth. His brilliant photographs in Micronesia: Island Wilderness depict a group of islands as yet significantly untouched by twentieth-century technology in which people still live primarily off the abundance of the sea and the land.

Kenneth Brower, who wrote the text of the book, tells in colorful prose of the native traditions of the Micronesian peoples. He speaks also of the place of islands in the imaginations of all of us, drawing on quotes of writers and artists who have dwelled in some sense on islands: Loren Eiseley, Paul Gauguin, Herman Melville, Daniel Defoe, William Shakespeare, and Homer. Kenneth Brower, a naturalist, has edited and written many books for Friends of the Earth and the Sierra Club. He was coauthor of Galapagos The Flow of Wildness, and wrote Earth and the Great Weather for Friends of the Earth, as well as With their Islands Around Them (Holt, Rinehart, and Winston), also about Micronesia.

Although many of the cultural traditions of the peoples of Micronesia have survived intact through the centuries, recent technological invasions by both East and West have left their imprint on these vulnerable isles. Micronesia has been a base for jets making raids over Vietnam, and it has been a testing area for nuclear weapons. Japan is currently hoping to establish an oil storage facility for supertankers there, which would certainly have a negative impact on the quality of life in Micronesia.

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As a way of dealing with the threat to these islands, Brower and Wenkam propose in the introduction a Micronesian Park as part of an Oceanic Park System. As Wenkam has said, "It is an idea in praise of island civilization and a way of living that can serve as an example to all of the earth's people." Ocean Parks would protect the undersea wilderness of lagoons and reefs, as well as the islands themselves. To protect the cultural traditions the islands would remain under the jurisdiction of local officials. The authors envision the establishment of marine sanctuaries, wildlife refuges, and forest reserves.

These are the goals that Friends of the Earth, Friends of Micronesia, and others are striving for as a way of preserving the beauty of these islands. We are hoping that Micronesia: Island Wilderness will be of interest to you and your friends. To order a copy, send \$29.50 plus \$1.00 for postage (for overseas shipment, add \$2.00 or \$10.00 for airmail) to Friends of the Earth Books, 529 Commercial Street, San Francisco, California 94111, U.S.A.

We appreciate your support and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

John W. Hamburger

John W. Hamburger,
Friends of the Earth Books

