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MICRONESIAN WASHINGTON OFFICE

CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA
TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

LEO A. FALCAM
LIAISON OFFICER

SUITE 823 PENNSYLVANIA BUILDING
425 13TH ST., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004

TELEPHONE. 638-7950
TELEX.

December 11, 1976

RL

The Honorable Gerald R. Ford
President of the United States of America
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

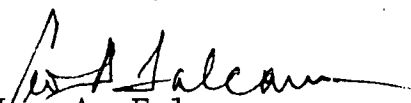
It is with great honor and privilege for me to advise your office of the establishment of the Micronesian Washington Office.

The enclosed newsletter is being forwarded for your information and use.

It is hoped that the functions of this office would assist in the advancement and clarification of the aspirations of the Micronesian people.

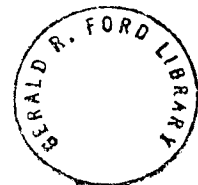
Your assistance in these efforts will be appreciated by the people of Micronesia (Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands) and by me personally.

Sincerely,


Leo A. Falcam
Liaison Officer

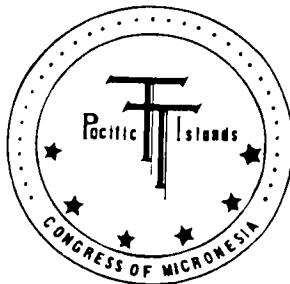
Enclosure

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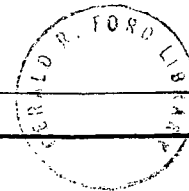
CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA NEWSLETTER

THE MICRONESIAN WASHINGTON OFFICE
SUITE 823 PENNSYLVANIA BUILDING
425 13th STREET N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004
PHONE NO. (202)638-7950/51



OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL
CAPITOL HILL
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
PHONE NO. 9351/9471
TELEX NO. 724-5267

NOVEMBER 1976



MICRONESIAN WASHINGTON OFFICE

COM Establishes Headquarters at Nation's Capital

The Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (Micronesia) recently established a Liaison Office in Washington, D. C. The Micronesian headquarters at the nation's capital was created through the enactment of Public Law No. 6-109 during the Second Regular Session of the Sixth Congress of Micronesia.

The purpose of the Micronesian Washington Office is to supplement and complement the efforts of the Office of Territorial Affairs, Department of the Interior, in representing the interests, needs, and

desires of the people of Micronesia.

The law establishing the Micronesian headquarters in Washington also created the position of liaison officer who was to be appointed by the Congress of Micronesia through a resolution for a four-year term beginning July 1, 1976.

The conduct of the Micronesian Washington Office is subject to the direction of the Senate President and House Speaker of the Congress of Micronesia.

LEO A. FALCAM

COM Appoints Washington Liaison Officer

On August 1, 1976, during its Second Special Session, the Sixth Congress of Micronesia adopted Joint Resolution No. 6-217 appointing Mr. Leo A. Falcam as Liaison Officer to head the Micronesian Washington Office.

As Liaison Officer, Mr. Falcam will represent the people of Micronesia before the various departments and agencies of the federal government, as well as other organizations, public and private, on all matters pertaining to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. He will actively advocate the programs and policies adopted by the Congress of Micronesia.

By law, the Liaison Officer is required to report to the Congress of Micronesia in person, each January. Additionally, he is to submit a monthly report to the Presiding Officers of the Congress concerning his activities in Washington, D. C.

In early September, Mr. Falcam visited Washington, D. C. to locate office space for the Micronesian Office. The Micronesian Washington Office is located in Suite 823 of the Pennsylvania Building at 425 13th Street, N.W., Washington, D. C. 20004.

Before Mr. Falcam returned with his family to Washington in late September, he stopped on

Saipan--provisional seat of the Micronesian capital--where he reviewed with the Congress what materials and assistance will be required for the opening of the office, and was briefed on several issues including the Five Year Development Plan, budget matters, status and transition was claims, and federal disaster assistance.



LEO A. FALCAM

THE NEW MICRONESIAN WASHINGTON LIAISON OFFICER

Mr. Leo A. Falcam, the newly selected Liaison Officer, is uniquely suited to represent Micronesia, its Congress and its people at the American capital. The 40-year-old Falcam was born in the District of Ponape, Eastern Caroline Islands, one of the six districts in Micronesia.

Through Trust Territory scholarships and other grants, Mr. Falcam obtained his B.A. degree in Sociology with a minor in Political Science from the University of Hawaii in 1962. In 1965, he received a Parvin Graduate Fellowship and attended the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University.

The Liaison Officer has held several posts in the TT Government, including that of Executive Officer of the TT--the third highest post in the Executive Branch and

the highest ever held by a Micronesian. In 1973, Mr. Falcam was nominated by the High Commissioner of the TT for the position of district administrator--equivalent in rank to an appointed governor--for Ponape District. His nomination was duly confirmed by the Congress of Micronesia. In 1975, when Micronesia held its Constitutional Convention, Mr. Falcam was a popularly elected delegate and was later chosen by the Convention to be one of its vice-presidents, in addition to being chairman of his district's delegation to that forum.

Over the years, Mr. Falcam attended numerous international and regional conferences, and has appeared before committees of the U.S. Congress, and the Trusteeship Council of the United Nations.

MICRONESIA:

Where and What It Is

Micronesia is located in the northwestern Pacific. It consists of over 2,000 islands, scattered over three million square miles of water with a population of more than 100,000 people. The Micronesian islands surround the island of Guam in the Marianas chain, which has been a territorial possession of the United States since 1898. Micronesia had been ruled for over 300 years by a succession of four foreign powers. It is currently administered in "trust" by the United States Government. Of the 11 Trust Territories created by the United Nations at the close of World War II, ten have now become independent from their administering authorities; thus, making Micronesia the world's last Trust Territory.

The Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands is comprised of six districts: the Marshalls, Ponape, Kusaie (will be a district in January 1977) and Truk in the Eastern Carolines; Palau and Yap in the Western Carolines. The Mariana Islands--a former district in the union of Micronesia--voted to become a permanent American Commonwealth of the United States in 1975. In 1976, it was separated administratively from the rest of Micronesia.

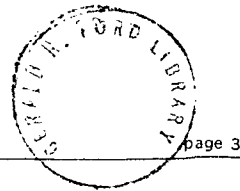
The Marianas is still technically a part of Micronesia until about 1981, the tentative target date when the United Nations Trusteeship Agreement will be

terminated simultaneously for all the districts. Most of its 15,000 people will become U.S. citizens upon termination of the U.N. Trusteeship Agreement.

A major issue confronting Micronesia today is the determination of its future political status. On June 2, 1976, Micronesia's Joint Committee on Future Status met on Saipan with the U.S. President's Personal Representative for their eighth round of status negotiations. The Joint Commission on Status and Transition has now replaced the Committee on Future Status and further negotiations are planned.

During that round of negotiations, two major areas remained to be resolved before the Compact of Free Association can be submitted to the Congress of Micronesia and its people in a plebiscite. These are Micronesia's great and legitimate interest in preserving and protecting its interest before the United Nations Law of the Sea Conference, and the distribution of outside (U.S.) financial grant funds among the six districts of Micronesia.

Currently, Micronesia is implementing its five year development plan with the goal of attaining a self-supporting economy within the next 10-15 years. This development plan was put together by Micronesians with the assistance of experts from the United Nations Development Programme.



Obligations of the Administering Authority

The United States as an administering authority of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (Micronesia) is obligated under Article 76 (b) of the United Nations Charter to:

"1) foster the development of such political institutions as are suited to the Trust Territory toward self-government or independence as may be appropriate to the particular circumstances of the Trust Territory and its peoples and the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned; and to this end shall give to the inhabitants of the Trust Territory a progressively increasing share in the administrative services in the territory; shall develop their participation in government; and give due recognition to the customs of the inhabitants in providing a system of law for the territory; and shall take other appropriate measures toward these ends;

"2) promote the economic advancement and self-sufficiency of the inhabitants, and to this end shall regulate the use of natural resources; encourage the

development of fisheries, agriculture, and industries; protect the inhabitants against the loss of their lands and resources; and improve the means of transportation and communications;

"3) promote the social advancement of the inhabitants and to this end shall protect the rights and fundamental freedoms of all elements of the population without discrimination; protect the health of the inhabitants; control the traffic in arms and ammunition, opium and other dangerous drugs, and alcoholic and other spirituous beverages; and institute such other regulations as may be necessary to protect the inhabitants against social abuses; and

"4) promote the educational advancement of the inhabitants, and to this end shall take steps toward the establishment of a general system of elementary education; facilitate the vocational and cultural advancement of the population; and shall encourage qualified students to pursue higher education, including training on the professional level."

U.N. STRESSES MICRONESIAN UNITY

The United Nations Trusteeship Council has reaffirmed its position that "the unity of the Marshall Islands and the Caroline Islands should be preserved," according to a copy of its draft conclusions and recommendations made available to the Congress of Micronesia.

The Trusteeship Council document was issued on July 8, 1976, following the 43rd Session, and will, in its final form, be part of the Council's report to the Security Council.

The Council also made other recommendations and conclusions concerning the political, social and economic progress in Micronesia.

It noted with "satisfaction" the U.S. reaffirmation that the Trusteeship would be terminated at the same time for all parts of Micronesia "and not for one part separately."

Regarding the veto power of the High Commissioner, the Council noted with "concern" that the U.S. "had not implemented its previous recommendation" that a distinction should be made between the special interests of the Trust Territory and the U.S. international obligations with the "ultimate objective of restricting as far as possible the occasions for the exercise of the power of the veto..."

Concerning the authority of the Congress of Micronesia over the Trust Territory budget, the Council said it "welcomes" the new budgetary

procedure by the Congress to present its own version of the budget to the U.S. Congress and said that this step "should be accompanied by closer involvement of the Congress of Micronesia in the allocation of funds."

Micronesia War Claims was also mentioned and the Council said that while they considered that Title I claims were settled, they urged that "total funds available should be increased towards the level envisaged by the Micronesia Claims Commission, so that adjudicated claims may be paid in full" for Title II.

With respect to Micronesians assuming positions of high responsibility in government, the Council said that the U.S. should "give serious consideration to preparing Micronesians for assuming the highest executive functions" and that it saw "value in promoting a Micronesia to the second most senior post in the executive branch."

It also reaffirmed the "need for the Congress of Micronesia to be consulted before the appointment or removal of judges of the High Court."

On Law of the Sea, the Council noted the strong views expressed by Senate President Tosiwo Nakayama that it was vital that Micronesia's interests in the potential wealth of the ocean be preserved for her people and that they should be fully taken into account.

The Council, however, failed to actually endorse the Congress of Micronesia's position and only noted that

(continued on pg. 4)



Congress of Micronesia

CAPITOL HILL SAIPAN MARIANA ISLANDS 96950

Phone 9726/9743

Telex 724 5267

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This is to introduce Mr. Leo A. Falcam, Liaison Officer for the Micronesian Washington Office.

The Micronesian Washington Office was created by the Congress of Micronesia pursuant to Public Law No. 6-109, enacted during the Second Regular Session, 1976. On August 1, 1976, the Congress of Micronesia adopted Joint Resolution No. 6-217, naming Mr. Falcam as Liaison Officer to head the Micronesian Washington Office.

The purpose of the Micronesian Washington Office is to supplement and complement the efforts of the Office of Territorial Affairs, Department of Interior, in representing the interests, needs and desires of the people of Micronesia (Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands).

As Liaison Officer, Mr. Falcam will be representing the people of Micronesia before the Congress of the United States, and before the various departments and agencies of the Federal Government, as well as other organizations, public and private, on all matters pertaining to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. He will be actively advocating the programs and policies adopted by the Congress of Micronesia.

Mr. Falcam is uniquely suited to represent Micronesia, its Congress and its people, in the United States. He was born and raised in the Ponape District, Eastern Caroline Islands, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. Trust Territory Scholarships and other grants enabled him to obtain his B.A. degree in 1962 at the University of Hawaii, and in 1965 he received a Parvin Graduate Fellowship and attended Woodrow Wilson graduate school of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University.

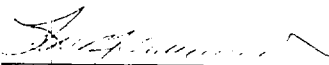
He has held several posts in the Trust Territory Government, including that of Executive Officer of the Trust Territory--the third highest position in the Executive Branch, and the highest ever held by a Micronesian.

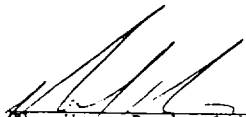
In 1973, Mr. Falcam was nominated by the High Commissioner of the Trust Territory for the position of District Administrator for the Ponape District, and his nomination was duly confirmed by the Congress of Micronesia. When Micronesia held its Constitutional Convention in 1975, Mr. Falcam was a popularly elected delegate and was later chosen by the Convention to be one of its vice-presidents.

Over the years, Mr. Falcam has attended numerous international and regional conferences, and has appeared before committees of the United States Congress, and the Trusteeship Council.

The opening of the Micronesian Washington Office represents a vital first step in carrying the voice of the Micronesian people directly to Washington, D. C. We believe that Mr. Falcam is a qualified and eloquent spokesman, we, therefore, respectfully solicit your interest and cooperation as he performs his official duties.

The Micronesian Washington Office is located in Suite 823 of the Pennsylvania Building at 425 13th Street, N.W., Washington, D. C. 20004.


The Hon. Tosiwo Nakayama
President, Senate
Congress of Micronesia


The Hon. Bethwel Henry
Speaker, House of Representatives
Congress of Micronesia

Falcam's View of New Office

The opening of the Micronesian Washington Office represents a vital first step in carrying the voice of the Micronesian people directly to Washington D. C.

Mr. Falcam views the Micronesian Washington Office as a "bridge over which the Micronesian story can be told directly to the U.S. Government."

"It will be a representation office, an informal arrangement to present the official views of the Congress of Micronesia to agencies of the U.S. Federal Government, the Congress of the United States, and to the United Nations in New York," he said.

Some Activities of the Congress of Micronesia

JANUARY - FEBRUARY

Second Regular Session of the Sixth Congress of Micronesia, 50-day session ending March 1, 1976, produced 38 laws and 44 single and joint resolutions.

MARCH

March 5, staff members of Micronesian Delegation to the Law of the Sea briefed members of 1976 U.N. Trusteeship Council Visiting Mission in Saipan.

March 1 - 22, Representative Luke M. Tman and COM staff member accompanied Deputy Director, Office of Territorial Affairs, Department of the Interior on trip through all districts regarding decentralization study.

March 10, Representative Raymond Setik and Senator Bailey Oltor with COM staff member attended TTPI budget hearings for FYs '77 and '76 before U.S. Congress.

March 15 - May 7, members and staff of Micronesian Delegation to the Law of the Sea attended U.N. sponsored LOS meeting in New York.

March 19 - 24, members of the Joint Committee on Future Status met in Truk District.

March 20 - April 6, Representative John Haglegam traveled with Brookhaven National Laboratory medical-scientific team to examine people of Rongelap and Utirik Atolls, Marshall Islands District.

March 24 - April 3, President Tosiwo Nakayama and Speaker Bethwel Henry attended 32nd Session of Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in Bangkok, Thailand.

MAY

May 5 - 14, member and staff of Congress along with UNDP personnel and district and Headquarters representatives met in Truk District on five-year indicative plan for Micronesia.

May 28 - June 2, Joint Committee on Future Status of the Congress held the Eighth Round of Status Negotiations on Saipan. New Joint Commission on Status and Transition organized on June 3, 1976.

June 28 - July 8, Representative Raymond Setik and Senate President Tosiwo Nakayama appeared as special advisers to the U.S. Delegation before the 43rd Session of the U.N. Trusteeship Council in New York.

July 14 - 15, Marshalls Congress members and staff attended hearings of a U.S. House Subcommittee headed by Representative Patsy Mink regarding alleged racial discrimination at Ebeye-Kwajalein and future status at Majuro.

July 19 - August 6, Second Special Session of the Sixth Congress of Micronesia held in Kolonia, Ponape District.

August 2 - September 17, members of the Micronesian Delegation to the Law of the Sea met in New York at the U.N. sponsored conference.

August 26 - September 7, COM staff attorney provided staff support for Marianas-Palau Micronesian War Claims group visit to Washington, D.C.

September 12 - 25, Liaison Officer for Micronesian Washington Office visited Washington, D. C.

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