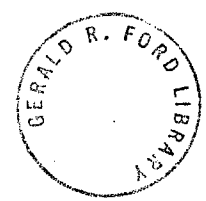


JOINT OPEN STATEMENT  
PRESIDING OFFICERS, CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA  
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS

Received: Micronesian Washington Office  
Washington, D.C.  
Tuesday, December 14, 1976



AS THE HIGHEST ELECTED LEADERS REPRESENTING THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA (TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS) AND THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA WE WISH TO EXPRESS OUR DISMAY AND EXTREME DISAPPOINTMENT AT LEARNING THAT U.S. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HAVE CONDUCTED ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE AGAINST MICRONESIAN CITIZENS IN CONNECTION WITH NEGOTIATIONS AFFECTING MICRONESIA'S FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS.

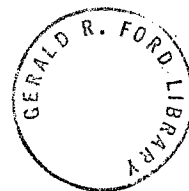
THERE HAS BEEN SPECULATION IN MICRONESIA IN THE PAST THAT SUCH SURVEILLANCE ACTIVITIES MIGHT HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT: THIS SAD SUSPICION HAS NOW APPARENTLY BEEN CONFIRMED ACCORDING TO A STORY APPEARING IN THE WASHINGTON POST.

OVER THE MORE THAN THREE DECADES THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS ADMINISTERED MICRONESIA THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA HAVE COME TO KNOW AND RESPECT AMERICANS AS THEIR FRIENDS, AND THEIR PROTECTORS. THE PEOPLE OF AMERICA THROUGH THEIR CONGRESS HAVE BEEN GENEROUS IN ASSISTING THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA -- A FACT WHICH WE TRULY APPRECIATE. IT IS THEREFORE MOST UNFORTUNATE THAT CERTAIN GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE ACTED IN A MANNER WHICH WOULD TEND TO CALL INTO QUESTION THE GOOD FAITH AND THE REAL INTENTIONS OF THE UNITED STATES.

WE FIND BOTH IRONIC AND TRAGIC THAT THE UNITED STATES, AS THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY IN A "SACRED" UNITED NATIONS TRUST, IS ACTING

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Joint Open Statement (Text)  
Presiding Officers, Congress of Micronesia  
Saipan, Mariana Islands  
Page Two



IN WHAT MIGHT CERTAINLY BE CONSIDERED AN UNDERHANDED MANNER WITH ITS WARDS, THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA. THE QUESTION OF FUTURE STATUS NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES IS A MATTER OF CONCERN FOR THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED MICRONESIAN COMMISSION ON STATUS AND TRANSITION. THEREFORE WE DO NOT AT THIS TIME WISH TO SPECULATE AS TO WHAT FUTURE EFFECT THIS DEVELOPMENT MIGHT HAVE IN THAT REGARD.

HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THAT THE PAST RECORD IS CLEAR: THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA HAS ATTEMPTED TO PROTECT THE BEST INTERESTS AND LEGAL RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA IN THE STATUS NEGOTIATIONS. AT THE SAME TIME WE HAVE ALSO RECOGNIZED AND TRIED TO ACCOMMODATE THE IMPORTANT STRATEGIC INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. WE HAVE BEEN OPEN AND CANDID WITH THE UNITED STATES.

DESPITE THIS APPROACH, WE HAVE GROWN INCREASINGLY CONCERNED WHILE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAVE APPROACHED THE MICRONESIAN DELEGATIONS IN A SEEMINGLY ADVERSARY MANNER, WHICH ONE MIGHT EXPECT FROM A GOVERNMENT DEALING WITH A HOSTILE, OR UNFRIENDLY NATION, BUT WHICH IS CONTRARY TO A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN A TRUSTEE AND ITS WARD. WE ARE THEREFORE ESPECIALLY CONCERNED THAT THE INFORMATION GATHERED THROUGH ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE HAS BEEN USED NOT SO MUCH TO LEARN OUR NEGOTIATING POSITION, BUT RATHER TO EXPLOIT DIFFERENCES OF OPINION WITHIN THE MICRONESIAN DELEGATION. THE FACT THAT THE UNITED STATES SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDED SEPARATE STATUS TALKS WITH THE MARIANAS, AND THAT THE MARSHALL ISLANDS AND PALAU DISTRICTS ARE NOW ACTIVELY CONSIDERING SEPARATE TALKS IS OF SERIOUS CONCERN TO US. WE CAN ONLY

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Joint Open Statement (Text)  
Presiding Officers, Congress of Micronesia  
Saipan, Mariana Islands  
Page Three



HOPE THAT THE U.S. DID NOT ACTIVELY USE THIS SURVEILLANCE IN ORDER TO PROMOTE DISUNITY WITHIN MICRONESIA, THUS MAKING IT EASIER FOR U.S. STRATEGISTS TO ACHIEVE THEIR GOALS AT THE EXPENSE OF THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA AND IN DIRECT CONTRAVENTION OF THE U.S. RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT. THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA HAVE NO SECRET SCHEMES OR CONTINGENCY PLANS TO HIDE FROM THE PEOPLE OF AMERICA.

WE SINCERELY LOOK FORWARD TO A LONG AND FRIENDLY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO AREAS. ALTHOUGH WE NUMBER RELATIVELY FEW IN TERMS OF POPULATION, WE HAD HOPED THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE WILLING TO DEAL WITH US ON EQUAL TERMS AS PEOPLE WHO HAVE THE GOD-GIVEN RIGHT TO EXERCISE THEIR OWN INHERENT SOVEREIGNTY. SUCH ARE THE LESSONS OF DEMOCRACY TAUGHT TO US OVER THE PAST 30 YEARS, AND WE FIRMLY BELIEVE IN THEM. THEREFORE, WE DO NOT AT THIS POINT WISH TO CONDEMN THE UNITED STATES FOR THIS ALLEGED SURVEILLANCE, EVEN THOUGH WE ARE DEEPLY DISHEARTENED TO SEE THAT THE GREATEST NATION ON EARTH AND THE LEADER OF THE FREE WORLD FEELS THE NEED TO USE MORALLY, LEGALLY AND POLITICALLY, QUESTIONABLE TACTICS AGAINST THE PEOPLE OF OUR SMALL ISLANDS. RATHER, WE WOULD LIKE TO TAKE A POSITIVE APPROACH AND LOOK TO THE FUTURE.

WE HOPE THAT REVELATION OF THIS INCIDENT WILL HAVE A POSITIVE EFFECT ON FUTURE U.S. POLICY TOWARD THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA. WE WOULD HOPE THAT THIS INCIDENT WILL SERVE AS A LESSON TO THE INCOMING ADMINISTRATION, AND THAT THE NEW ADMINISTRATION WILL CALL FOR A REAPPRAISAL AND REVIEW OF ITS POLICIES TOWARD ITS WARDS IN MICRONESIA WHO COMPRISE THE LAST REMAINING TRUSTEESHIP IN THE WORLD. MICRONESIANS HAVE BEEN

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Joint Open Statement (Text)  
Presiding Officers, Congress of Micronesia  
Saipan, Mariana Islands  
Page Four

RULED BY FOUR FOREIGN NATIONS OVER THE PAST FOUR CENTURIES. INNOCENT MICRONESIANS DIED ON THEIR OWN ISLANDS CAUGHT BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE U.S. DURING WORLD WAR TWO. MICRONESIANS HAVE HAD THEIR ISLANDS DESTROYED AND THEIR PEOPLE MADE SICK AS A DIRECT RESULT OF U.S. ATOMIC TESTING IN THE MARSHALL ISLANDS DISTRICT. TODAY A MISSILE TESTING FACILITY IN THE MARSHALL ISLANDS CONTINUES TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE SECURITY AND DEFENSE OF THE PEOPLE OF AMERICA.

ALL THAT THE CONGRESS AND PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA ASK IS THAT THE UNITED STATES DEAL FAIRLY AND HONESTLY WITH US: THAT WE WORK TOGETHER IN A SPIRIT OF COOPERATION AND FRIENDSHIP ON AN EQUAL BASIS: THAT TOGETHER WE SEEK THE BEST MEANS TO TERMINATE THE TRUSTEESHIP ON A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY BASIS AND PROVIDE FOR CONTINUED AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN THE PEOPLE OF AMERICA AND THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA IN THE FUTURE.

SIGNED: SENATE PRESIDENT TOSIWO NAKAYAMA AND HOUSE SPEAKER BETHWEL HENRY, CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA.

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