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2 TO THE ST. JAMES HOTEL, N.A.
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FRANK R. HANCOCK, SEN. W.
JAMES H. HARRIS, SEN. OHIO
RICHARD STONE, SEN. ILL.
DALE BUMPUS, SEN. ARIZ.

PAUL J. HARRIS, SEN. WYOM.
WILLIAM H. HARRIS, SEN. OHIO
JAMES S. HARRIS, SEN. OHIO
GEORGE F. HARRIS, SEN. OHIO

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

March 7, 1977

GREENWILE GARDNER, SPECIAL COUNSEL AND STATE DIRECTOR
WILLIAM J. VAN NO, CHIEF COUNSEL

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The Honorable Jimmy Carter
President of the United States
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing with respect to the ongoing negotiations to resolve the future status of Micronesia. With the dissolution of the Under Secretaries Committee of the National Security Council, we assume that you will be developing a new institutional arrangement to handle the negotiations, as well as re-examining U. S. policy. Our experience with the negotiations to date, including the Administration's posture on the Covenant to establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, prompts us to offer the following suggestions.

The Departments of Interior, Defense, and State have legitimate, but often conflicting interests in the results of the negotiations. Inter-agency conflicts have, in the past, forced the U. S. to be unresponsive to proposals from the Trust Territory, and unrealistic in our own proposals. As you may be aware, the prospects for unity among the remaining six districts of the Trusteeship are rapidly diminishing, and we are concerned that an inflexible U. S. position could not only delay a status resolution, but also further impair our relations and credibility with the various districts. We would appreciate being informed of the institutional arrangement which you establish to formulate a U. S. posture and resolve inter-agency conflicts.

In your appointment of a principal negotiator and the head of the institutional arrangement, we urge you to choose a neutral person, one who will be able to represent the United States without favoring one agency over another. It is essential that your representative be an impartial person knowledgeable about Micronesia who can act effectively as a catalyst between the departments concerned rather than someone who might be viewed as reflecting the views of one department over another.

An additional concern, is the inordinate emphasis on the possible reaction of the United Nations Security Council to particular status alternatives which we have perceived in past hearings and Committee briefings, principally from the Department of State. To subordinate the legitimate

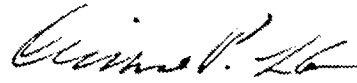
desires of the various districts and the interests of the United States which were the basis for the Trusteeship Agreement to the vastly different motives and interests of the membership of the Security Council would be not only unwise, but would destroy any flexibility in U. S. negotiations and any possibility of realistic responses to developments in Micronesia. We feel that considerations involving the Security Council, albeit obviously important, should not dominate the process of negotiations, the freely expressed will of the Micronesian peoples, nor the vital interests of the United States.

We look forward to your response and remain available to discuss our concerns further with you.

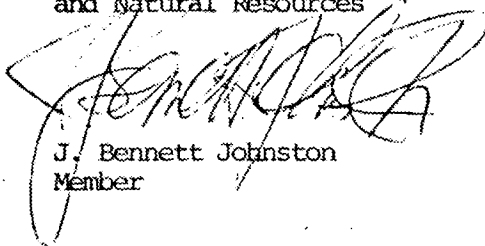
Sincerely yours,



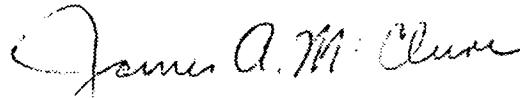
Henry M. Jackson
Chairman, Committee on Energy
and Natural Resources



Clifford P. Hansen
Ranking Minority Member



J. Bennett Johnston
Member



James A. McClure
Member

CC: The Honorable Cecil D. Andrus
Secretary of the Interior

The Honorable Dr. Harold Brown
U. S. Secretary of Defense

The Honorable Cyrus P. Vance
Secretary of State