Richard D. Copaken, Esquire
Messrs. Covington & Burling
888 16th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Dick:

I have your letter of June 26 regarding the formation and organization of the Office for Micronesian Status Negotiations.

The position of the President's Personal Representative for Micronesian Status Negotiations was established in 1971 by the Nixon Administration in a classified National Security Decision Memorandum--an administrative and policy directive to the Executive Branch from the President. That document gave the President's Personal Representative overall authority for the negotiations within the limits of the substantive instructions which the President issued from time to time. He was given authority to communicate directly with the President through the office of the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs and to consult with Congress. He was also required to coordinate his positions with concerned federal agencies as and when necessary.

The Office for Micronesian Status Negotiations (OMSN) was created by the same Presidential directive,

and the Departments of State, Defense and Interior were directed to provide support to the Office.

The position of President's Personal Representative and the Office for Micronesian Status Negotiations remain unaltered in their essentials under a new Presidential Decision Memorandum issued in the current administration. The President's Personal Representative, working through a Micronesia Interagency Group chaired by the Counselor of the State Department, receives his instructions from the President, acting on the recommendations of the Policy Review Committee (a Cabinet level committee) of the National Security Council. The members of the Interagency Group are the federal agencies with principal concerns for the Trust Territory, and OMSN. Other departments with particular concerns or expertise are brought in from time to time.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Sincerely,

Peter R. Rosenblatt
Ambassador