



THE PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE  
FOR MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

December 18, 1979

Honorable Adrian P. Winkel  
High Commissioner  
Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands  
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950

Dear Adrian:

As you know, we are now making plans to meet with the Micronesian delegations at Kona, Hawaii for about a week starting January 7. The negotiations with the FSM and Marshall Islands lawyers here have been going extremely well since the summer and almost all of the remaining issues have been resolved. The MIG is taking the position that it wants the compact initialled ASAP and will not come to the next round of negotiations unless we agree in advance to such an initialling, assuming, of course, that the last issues are resolved. The FSM appears to be acutely conscious of centrifugal forces threatening the federation and has expressed a strong desire for an early conclusion to the negotiations which remove future political status from the area of internal debate. They, too, say that they are anxious for an initialling at Kona (assuming, also, that the last issues are resolved).

With your good offices, for which I thank you very much, I am about to leave for Honolulu to meet with a delegation of the new Seventh Palauan Legislature. The fact that they are able to meet with me in Honolulu makes it possible for me to economise on my time at a juncture of very great importance. It is impossible to predict how the meeting with the Palauans will turn out, but Keith's reports lead me to believe that we may find some way to get the new leadership to concur with the Compact even if somewhat later.

The issues raised by Congressman Burton remain unresolved. However, we are now able to get high level attention focussed on the desirability of some kind of understanding with him and I am hopeful that

our colleagues in the White House and OMB, in particular, will approve a package of proposals addressing the concerns which he has articulated for some time.

The one point on which I believe almost everyone in the Executive Branch agrees is that we cannot halt the negotiations now or so drag out the negotiations as to leave the compact terms unresolved until after the election. To do so would be to invite an almost certain disintegration of the relationships which we have worked so painstakingly to resuscitate from their low point at the end of the Ford Administration, and to invite the possibility of political disintegration in the FSM and open hostility in the Marshalls.


Accordingly, I have urged those responsible for the decision of these issues to address Congressman Burton's substantive issues, indexing and federal programs. I hope that in this way he will agree that his highest priority concerns can be met.

It is too early to say what the decision will be, but this is what is taking most of my time as I prepare to leave for Honolulu.

In any event, under the circumstances, we must proceed to make preparations for Kona and I am hoping, as always, that you will agree to attend. Reno has all of the details and I'm hoping that I shall have the pleasure of seeing you and perhaps Isobel there at that time. I will, incidentally, bring Naomi.

With warmest good wishes to you both for a happy holiday season,

Sincerely,



Peter R. Rosenblatt  
Ambassador

bcc: Mr. Jeffrey Farrow  
Hon. Matthew Nimetz