

GOVERNMENT OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

Office of the President

Majuro, Marshall Islands 96960

December 21, 1979

President Jimmy Carter
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear President Carter:

On behalf of the Government and the people of the Marshall Islands, I want to express to you our deepest appreciation for the quick and extensive assistance rendered by the Government of the United States following the tidal waves which recently devastated much of Majuro atoll, one of our most populated areas. Your personal action in speedily declaring Majuro a federal disaster area opened the way for our timely receipt of crucial supplies and technical assistance. I am pleased to report that the lengthy rebuilding process is now underway.

The spirit of genuine concern and cooperation demonstrated by the Government of the United States in response to the Majuro disaster contributed greatly to the very positive atmosphere which we are continuing to build between our governments as we approach the conclusion of a Compact of Free Association. After more than 12 years and several unsuccessful prior rounds of negotiations, your personal leadership finally set these negotiations on the right track and restored our faith in the United States. The people of the Marshall Islands now look forward with great anticipation to the initialing of a final Compact in mid-January, 1980 which your Personal Representative, Ambassador Peter R. Rosenblatt, has so successfully negotiated on your behalf, and to the termination of the Trusteeship in 1981 as you promised.

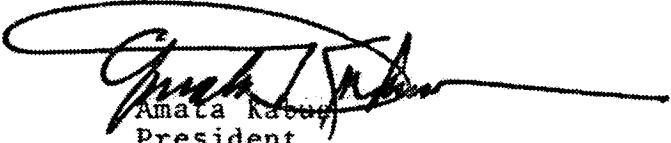
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Although a few points remain to be finalized, we now have in hand a draft Compact of Free Association which we believe forms the basis for a mutually beneficial and satisfying relationship between our Governments. We appreciate your personal interest and support which has been continuous from the inception of your administration and we rely upon the steadfastness of your commitment to assure that the agreement which the representatives of our Governments and peoples have negotiated in good faith will be initialed in its final form during the week of January 7-14, 1980.

Sincerely,



Amata Kabua
President

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