

JANUARY 14, 1980

STATEMENT
BY
AMBASSADOR PETER R. ROSENBLATT
THE PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE
FOR MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS

PRESIDENT KABUA, EMLAIN KABUA, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

ON BEHALF OF PRESIDENT CARTER, HIS ENTIRE ADMINISTRATION AND THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT I CONGRATULATE YOU, SIR, AND THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS.

WE HAVE GATHERED HERE TO MARK THE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF A PROCESS, THE MICRONESIAN POLITICAL STATUS NEGOTIATIONS. WE RECORD, ALSO, ANOTHER MOMENTOUS STEP, AFTER THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT, TOWARD THE ENDING OF THE TRUSTEESHIP AND, INDEED, OF CENTURIES OF FOREIGN CONTROL OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS AND ALL OF MICRONESIA.

THE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH WE CONCLUDE HAVE EXTENDED BACK, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, OVER ELEVEN YEARS. WE SHOULD NOTE HERE THE DEBT WE OWE TO THE ABLE AND DEDICATED MICRONESIAN AND AMERICAN NEGOTIATORS, FROM THE EARLIER PERIOD OF THESE TALKS, PARTICULARLY LAZARUS SALII OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA'S JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS AND MY DISTINGUISHED PREDECESSOR, AMBASSADOR F. HAYDN WILLIAMS, WHO HAS CONTINUED THROUGHOUT THE LATEST PHASE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS TO GIVE ME HIS ENCOURAGEMENT AND SUPPORT. THEIR IMMAGINATIVE AND GROUND-BREAKING WORK ESTABLISHED THE FUNDAMENTAL BASIS UPON WHICH WE HAVE BUILT.

BUT IT IS THE LAST TWO YEARS' WORK, IN WHICH THE MARSHALL ISLANDS HAS BEEN SEPARATELY REPRESENTED BY ITS OWN COMMISSIONS, AND NOW GOVERNMENT, MR. PRESIDENT, WHICH HAS PRODUCED THIS DOCUMENT AND YOUR INITIALS ON IT! THE EXTRAORDINARY LEADERSHIP WHICH YOU, YOUR ABLE FOREIGN SECRETARY AND VICE CHAIRMAN TONY DE BRUM, AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION HAVE GIVEN THE MARSHALL ISLANDS HAVE BROUGHT US TO THIS HAPPY DAY.

WITH THE COMPLETION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS AND AGREEMENT ON THE TERMS OF A NEW RELATIONSHIP OF FREE ASSOCIATION WE CELEBRATE A NEW BEGINNING AS WELL AS THE ENDING OF A LONG PROCESS AND AN OLD STATUS. FOR WHAT WE HAVE HERE CRAFTED STANDS AS A SINGULAR ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND OF ITS FRIENDS IN THE MARSHALL ISLANDS, THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA AND PALAU. NOWHERE ELSE IN WORLD HISTORY HAS SUCH A RELATIONSHIP AS THIS EVER EXISTED. BUT WE HAVE JOINTLY DECIDED NOT TO BE BOUND BY THE RIGID CONFINES OF THE USUAL STATUS CHOICES AND HAVE EVOLVED A UNIQUE ALTERNATIVE WHICH SUITS OUR NEEDS AND CIRCUMSTANCES PRECISELY. IT IS A PIONEERING EFFORT IN EVERY SENSE OF THAT WORD. WE HAVE HAD NO PRECEDENTS UPON WHICH TO BASE OUR WORK--ONLY THE KNOWLEDGE THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY RECOGNIZES THE THEORETICAL EXISTENCE OF SUCH A THING AS FREE ASSOCIATION EVEN THOUGH IT HAS NOT BEEN DEFINED. DEFINING IT TO SUIT OURSELVES IS WHAT THESE NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN ABOUT.

AND SO NOW WE EMBARK ON THE NEXT PHASE OF OUR EFFORTS. MUCH REMAINS TO BE DONE BEFORE THE TRUSTEESHIP CAN BE CONCLUDED AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE DAY, WHICH I AM SURE IS NEAR, WHEN OUR INITIALS WILL BE JOINED, ON THIS SAME DOCUMENT, BY THOSE OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA AND PALAU.

AT A CEREMONY WORKING THE CONCLUSION OF SO MANY MONTHS OF CONCENTRATED EFFORT, MR. PRESIDENT, I BELIEVE MYSELF ENTITLED TO TAKE JUST A MOMENT FOR AN ENTIRELY PERSONAL NOTE. OUR ABILITY TO ANNOUNCE THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS TO THE WORLD IS ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE JOINT EFFORT OF LITERALLY HUNDREDS OF MEN AND WOMEN IN THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND IN THOSE OF THE TRUST TERRITORY. BUT NO ONE HAS PLAYED A MORE CRUCIAL ROLE THAN YOU, AMATA. YOUR WISE AND SEASONED LEADERSHIP AND YOUR ABILITY ALWAYS TO LOOK BEYOND THE INDIVIDUAL PROBLEMS WHICH SOMETIMES SEEMED ABOUT TO BLOCK OUR PROGRESS TO THE OVERALL VALUES AT STAKE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, FURNISHED THE DECISIVE CATALYST OF OUR SUCCESS. I THEREFORE TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO CONGRATULATE YOU, PERSONALLY, ON YOUR INDISPENSIBLE PART IN PRODUCING THIS DOCUMENT. THE UNITED STATES, THE OTHER PARTIES TO OUR NEGOTIATIONS, AND THE MARSHALLESE PEOPLE ARE IN YOUR DEBT.

THANK YOU.

KONA, HAWAII