
REMARKS OF GOVERNOR CARLOS S. CAMACHO
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
BEFORE THE UNITED NATIONS TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL
MAY 1980

MR. PRESIDENT, OTHER OFFICIALS AND HONORED MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL, I BRING WARM GREETINGS, Hafa Adai, AND KIRICHO CHAPIUR FROM THE PEOPLE OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.

I AM HONORED AND PRIVILEGED TO AGAIN APPEAR BEFORE YOU AS PART OF THE UNITED STATES, UNITED NATION MISSION. I AM ESPECIALLY HONORED TO EXTEND ON BEHALF OF MR. JOAQUIN PANGELINAN, SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND MR. PEDRO TENORIO, PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, AND THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS WHOM THE THREE OF US REPRESENT, OUR SINCERE CONGRATULATION TO YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, AND ALSO TO YOU, MS. SHIELA HARDEN, VICE PRESIDENT FOR THE IMPORTANT POSITION BESTOWED UPON YOU BY MEMBERS OF THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL MEMBERS. LIKewise I WANT TO EXTEND OUR APPRECIATION FOR THE OUTGOING PRESIDENT AND CHAIRLADY OF THE MOST RECENT VISITING MISSION TO THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. I WOULD LIKE IN OPENING MY STATEMENT, TO INTRODUCE THE DELEGATION FROM THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS:

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE, MR. JOAQUIN PANGELIAN
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, MR. PEDRO TENORIO
MR. RAIMONDO MANGLONA, REPRESENTING THE OUTER ISLANDS
DR. WILLIAM PECK
MR. LUIS S. CAMACHO
MR. DAVID PRICE
EDWARD PANGALINAN

TODAY MARKS MY THIRD APPEARANCE BEFORE THE UNITED NATIONS TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL. IF TERMINATION OF THE TRUSTEESHIP PROCEEDS ON SCHEDULE, I PRESUME THAT THIS WILL BE THE LAST APPEARANCE OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS AS WARDS OF THIS TRUSTEESHIP; AND, IF SO, IT BECOMES INCUMBENT ON ME TO CONVEY TO YOU THE TRUST AND AFFECTION THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS HAVE PLACED IN THE UNITED NATIONS OVER THE LAST THIRTY-SOME YEARS, AND TO IMPRESS ON THIS COUNCIL THE GRATITUDE THAT EACH OF US FEELS FOR ITS GUARDIANSHIP OF OUR INTERESTS THROUGH THOSE FORMATIVE AND SOMETIMES TUMULTUOUS YEARS. I SHOULD TELL YOU THAT THE RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR ADOPTED PARENT-GOVERNMENT IS A COMFORTABLE AND CONGENIAL ONE. WE WERE FEARFUL, AT FIRST, THAT TINY, WEAK NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, COMING INTO THE EMBRACE OF THE MOST POWERFUL NATION ON EARTH, MIGHT BE SUFFOCATED BY THE EXPERIENCE; FOR INSTANCE, WE COULD SEE THAT WILLY-NILLY ENFORCEMENT OF REGULATIONS DESIGNED TO CONTROL SHIPPING AND SHIP BUILDING AMONG POWERFUL COASTAL STATES WOULD RUIN US IF SUPERIMPOSED ON OUR FEEBLE, DISTANT ECONOMY. AND SO IT WOULD HAVE, AND SO IT ALMOST DID, UNTIL SYMPATHETIC HIGH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, INCLUDING PRESIDENT CARTER, CAME TO OUR AID AND GAVE US EXCEPTION TO SUCH INAPPLICABLE REGULATIONS. THE SAME SORT OF THING THREATENED TO OCCUR IN THE INTERPRETATION OF IMMIGRATION PROVISIONS, BUT AGAIN WE WERE SAVED BY THE PRESIDENT'S INTERVENTION. THE WAY THESE THINGS HAVE BEEN RESOLVED HAS GIVEN US CONFIDENCE AND A FEELING THAT WE HAVE BECOME A FUNCTIONAL AND RESPECTED PART OF THIS GREAT NATION. WE LOOK FORWARD, OF COURSE, TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FULL AND UNEQUIVOCAL POLITICAL AFFILIATION AS SOON AS THE TRUSTEESHIP IS FORMALLY TERMINATED; THOUGH I WOULD ADD THAT WE ARE NOW ENJOYING MOST OF THE PRIVILEGES AND PERQUISITES THAT FULL AFFILIATION WILL PERMANENTLY SECURE FOR US.

ONE MORE WORD CONCERNING TERMINATION OF THE TRUSTEESHIP: I ASK THAT TERMINATION NOT SIGNAL THE END OF FRIENDSHIPS AND THE SPLENDID WORKING RELATIONS THAT EXIST BETWEEN US AND THE UNITED NATIONS; NOR THAT IT SIGNAL THE END OF THOSE ACTIVITIES THAT HAVE CREATED INNUMERABLE INDIVIDUAL FRIENDSHIPS FOR US ON BOTH SIDES OF THE EQUATOR. WE LOOK ABOUT THE WESTERN PACIFIC AND SOUTH PACIFIC AND SEE A COMMUNITY OF ISLAND PEOPLES WHO SHARE SIMILAR PROBLEMS AND STRENGTHS AND WHO, OVER THE COURSE OF THE LAST THIRTY-SOME YEARS, HAVE DEVELOPED STRONG PERSONAL ATTACHMENTS WITH ONE ANOTHER; WE SEE WHOLESOME ATTITUDES OF INTER-DEPENDENCE THAT TRANSCEND NATIONAL AND POLITICAL AND ETHNIC AFFILIATIONS. ARMED WITH THESE OBSERVATIONS, I PROPOSE THIS CONCLUSION: I PROPOSE TO YOU THAT THESE PACIFIC ISLANDS CONSTITUTE THE ONE AREA ON THIS GLOBE WHERE THE UNITED NATIONS' TENETS OF BROTHERHOOD AND AMITY HAVE BEEN THOROUGHLY UNDERSTOOD AND PRACTICED, AND HAVE CREATED AN ACTUAL ZONE OF TRANQUILITY IN AN OTHERWISE TROUBLED WORLD. WE LOOK TO THE UNITED NATIONS WHICH CREATED THIS ZONE OF TRANQUILITY AND CAMRADERIE, AS THE KEY TO PERPETUATING IT; AND WE LOOK TO THE UNITED NATIONS AS KEY TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS OF THIS TOTAL AREA--BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH OF THE EQUATOR--THAT SUCH TRANQUILITY WILL INSPIRE; IN FACT, IS ALREADY BEGINNING TO INSPIRE. AND WE WISH VERY MUCH TO CONTINUE AS LOYAL, INFORMAL PARTICIPANTS IN THIS CONTINUING PROCESS.

AS I SPEAK TO YOU TODAY, I REPRESENT TWO ORGANIZATIONS. I SPEAK, OF COURSE, AS GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, AND I ALSO SPEAK TO YOU AS THIS YEAR'S PRESIDENT OF THE PACIFIC ISLAND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION, WHICH REPRESENTS THE GOVERNMENTS OF HAWAII, AMERICAN SAMOA, GUAM, THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS, AND THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. THIS ORGANIZATION IS PARENT TO TWO

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS: (1) THE PACIFIC ISLANDS TOURISM DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION WHICH EXTENDS ITS MEMBERSHIP INTERNATIONALLY SO AS TO INCLUDE THE GOVERNMENTS OF WESTERN SAMOA, TONGA, TAHITI, COOK ISLANDS, FIJI, NAURU, AND PAPUA NEW GUINEA; AND (2) IT IS ALSO PARENT TO THE PACIFIC TUNA DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION. THUS, THERE IS A MATRIX OF ORGANIZATION AMONG NEARLY ALL PACIFIC ISLANDS THAT DESIGNATES OUR FRATERNAL TIES, MUTUAL LOYALTIES, AND INTERESTS. I SPEAK TO YOU NOW WITH THE VOICE OF THESE ORGANIZATIONS--OFFICIALLY AS GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS AND AS PRESIDENT OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION--AND FORMALLY PLACE BEFORE YOU OUR REQUEST THAT 1981 BE DECLARED THE YEAR OF THE PACIFIC. WE ASK THAT WORLD ATTENTION BE FOCUSED FORMALLY AND ~~DRAMATICALLY~~ ON THE PACIFIC AREA WHERE PEOPLES OF DIVERSE ETHNIC BACKGROUNDS, DIVERSE POLITICAL AFFILIATION, AND DIVERSE HISTORIES--THOUGH SEPARATED BY IMMENSE DISTANCES--HAVE ACHIEVED PEACE, FRIENDSHIP, COMMON PURPOSE, AND THE RUDIMENTS OF ORGANIZATION; AND THEREBY HAVE AFFIRMED THE VERY PRINCIPLES FOR WHICH THE UNITED NATION WAS CREATED. I REALIZE THAT UGLY AND URGENT CRISES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD DEMAND YOUR FIRST ATTENTION, BUT I ASK THAT YOU ALSO TAKE SERIOUS NOTE OF THE SUCCESSFUL RELATIONS YOU HAVE PROMOTED IN THE PACIFIC AREA AND CELEBRATE THEM IN THIS MANNER. I ASK THAT 1981 BE DECLARED THE YEAR OF THE PACIFIC NOT ONLY TO NOTE AND CELEBRATE THIS ACHIEVEMENT, BUT ALSO FOR PURPOSE OF FOCUSING WORLD ATTENTION ON THE IMMENSE, POTENTIAL RESOURCES THAT WE ARE BECOMING AWARE OF, AND THAT NEW TECHNICAL ADVANCES WILL ALLOW US TO SHARE WITH OTHER NATIONS.

OVER THE YEARS THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN SEVERELY CRITICISED FOR ITS FAILURE TO EXERCISE LEADERSHIP IN DEVELOPING A SELF-SUSTAINING

ECONOMY OR TO PROVIDE AN INFRASTRUCTURE THAT WOULD SUPPORT SUCH DEVELOPMENT. THE COVENANT WHICH DEFINES THE RELATION AND BENEFITS OF COMMONWEALTH-U.S. AFFILIATION IS EXPLICIT IN STATING THAT MATERIAL STEPS SHALL BE TAKEN OVER THE COURSE OF SEVEN YEARS TO CORRECT THESE DEFICIENCIES. THOSE ITEMS THAT IT SPECIFIES OR IMPLIES MAY BE REGARDED AS ESSENTIAL INFRA-STRUCTURE DEVELOPMENTS UPON WHICH ALL OTHER DEVELOPMENTS ARE PREDICATED. THEY MAY BE LISTED AS: ELECTRICAL POWER, WATER, ROADS, DOCKS, COMMUNICATION, AND AIRPORT FACILITIES. IT HAS NOW BEEN THREE AND ONE HALF YEARS SINCE THIS COMMITMENT WAS MADE AND WE ARE AT A HALF-WAY MARK IN THE SEVEN YEARS OF PROMISED DEVELOPMENTS. ALLOW ME TO GO THROUGH THIS LIST AND ASSESS THE DEVELOPMENTS AS THEY STAND TODAY AT THIS HALF-WAY MARK.

ELECTRICAL POWER

THE PROMISE TO SUPPLY ADEQUATE ELECTRICAL POWER HAS BEEN BRILLIANTLY CONSUMATED. JUST BEFORE LEAVING SAIPAN I OFFICIALLY OPENED A NINE MILLION DOLLAR POWER PLANT THAT IS REGARDED AS THE MOST EFFICIENT PRODUCER OF ELECTRICITY IN THE ENTIRE PACIFIC AREA. LET ME ADD, HOWEVER, THAT WE ARE EXPLORING ALTERNATE SOURCES OF ELECTRICAL POWER FOR THE FUTURE.

AIRPORT FACILITIES

DEVELOPMENT HERE IS ALSO BEYOND REPROACH. SAIPAN AND ROTA BOTH HAVE NEW, MODERN, AND CHARMING AIR TERMINALS, AND THEIR RUNWAYS WILL SAFELY ACCOMODATE ALL COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT. NEW AIRPORT FACILITIES ARE UNDER CONSTRUCTION ON TINIAN, AND THEY, ALSO, WILL BE EXCELLENT.

WATER

WATER IS STILL SOMETIMES IN SHORT SUPPLY AND EXTENSIVE EXPLORATION AND WELL-DRILLING ARE TAKING PLACE AND THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM IS BEING REPLACED OR EXTENDED. I HAVE CONFIDENCE THAT AVAILABLE WATER WILL

EVENTUALLY BECOME ADEQUATE, THOUGH THIS MIGHT NOT OCCUR WITHIN THE ALLOTTED SEVEN YEARS UNLESS THE U.S. GOVERNMENT PROVIDES ADDITIONAL, URGENTLY NEEDED FUNDS.

COMMUNICATION

OUR HOPE IS THAT COMMUNICATIONS CAN BE GREATLY IMPROVED WITH THE PLACEMENT OF AN EARTH SATELLITE STATION ON SAIPAN AS PROPOSED BY THE LOCAL COMPANY, MICRONESIAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS, AND SUBSEQUENTLY APPROVED BY THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATION COMMISSION.

ROADS

ROADS THAT WERE ONCE REGARDED AS A MODEL FOR ALL OTHER ISLAND ROADS IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC ARE NO LONGER ADEQUATE FOR THE TRAFFIC THEY ARE NOW ASKED TO BEAR, AND THEY HAVE BECOME AN IMPEDIMENT IN OUR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. FEDERAL FUNDS FOR HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION ARE BECOMING AVAILABLE AND WE EXPECT TO BRING ALL OUR HIGHWAYS UP TO ACCEPTABLE LEVEL WITHIN THE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS.

DOCKS

HARBOR FACILITIES ON ROTA AND TINIAN ARE BEING IMPROVED, THOUGH MORE FUNDS WILL BE REQUIRED TO BRING THEM UP TO ACCEPTABLE LEVEL. HARBOR FACILITIES ON SAIPAN REMAIN WOEFULLY INADEQUATE AND WORK TO IMPROVE THESE FACILITIES IS HELD UP FOR LACK OF FUNDING.

I LEAVE WITH YOU COPIES OF MY SECOND STATE OF THE COMMONWEALTH MESSAGE WHICH ELABORATES ON THESE ISSUES.

I NOW TURN TO A MATTER OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE THAT, I BELIEVE, MERITS YOUR ATTENTION. THIS HAS TO DO WITH DISPOSAL OF RADIOACTIVE

WASTES. RECENTLY, ONE OF YOUR MEMBER NATIONS PROPOSED SINKING ITS RADIOACTIVE WASTES IN DEEP WATER JUST FIVE OR SIX HUNDRED MILES NORTH OF US. WE WERE THOROUGHLY ALARMED BECAUSE THE METHOD HAS NOT BEEN TESTED FOR SAFETY--NOT EVEN FOR IMMEDIATE SAFETY, MUCH LESS FOR SAFETY OVER THE CENTURIES INDICATED BY THE ENORMOUS HALF-LIVES OF THE MATERIALS INVOLVED. WE ARE CONCERNED FOR THESE MATERIALS WOULD BE DIFFICULT, IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE, TO RECOVER FROM DEEP WATER IN CASE OF LEAKAGE. ACTUALLY, THE THREAT OF PROXIMITY DOES NOT BOTHER US AS MUCH AS DOES OUR KNOWLEDGE THAT THE MIGRATORY FISH, THAT ARE A LARGE PART OF OUR DIETS AND ECONOMY, RANGE OVER MUCH OF THE PACIFIC OCEAN (A FACT THAT IS BEING EXTENSIVELY DOCUMENTED THROUGH THE TECHNIQUE OF TAGGING TUNA; A FACT THAT WE BECAME PAINFULLY AWARE OF AT TIME OF THE DISCOVERY THAT MANY TUNA HAD BECOME CONTAMINATED BY MERCURY), AND THIS HAS LED US TO PROTEST THE USE OF ANY PACIFIC WATERS FOR SUCH PURPOSE. WE ARE AWARE THAT SEVERAL NATIONS ARE CONTINUING TO CONSIDER VARIOUS AREAS IN THE PACIFIC FOR DUMPING THEIR WASTES, EVEN THEIR COLLECTIVE WASTES, AND WE CONTINUE OUR PROTEST BY ENUNCIATING IT IN FORM OF A DOCTRINE, WHICH IS THIS: NATIONS THAT PROFIT FROM ENERGY DERIVED FROM NUCLEAR ACTIVITY MUST ASSUME WHATEVER DANGER MAY EXIST FROM THE DISPOSAL OF THE RESULTING RADIOACTIVE WASTES. LET ME REPEAT THIS: NATIONS THAT PROFIT FROM ENERGY DERIVED FROM NUCLEAR ACTIVITY MUST ASSUME WHATEVER DANGER MAY EXIST FROM THE DISPOSAL OF THE RESULTING RADIOACTIVE WASTES. AND I SAY TO YOU THAT I CONSIDER IT GRAVELY AND MORALLY IRRESPONSIBLE FOR ANY NATION TO FOB SUCH DANGERS OFF ON DISTANT PEOPLE WHO HAVE NO RECOURSE TO PREVENT IT. I PRESENT THIS PROBLEM TO YOU SOLEMNLY AND WITH GREAT CONCERN; AND WITH IT I PRESENT THIS DOCTRINE OF NUCLEAR WASTE DISPOSAL THAT REPRESENTS THE CONVICTION OF THOSE OF US WHO LIVE ON SMALL ISLANDS AND ARE WITHOUT EFFECTIVE VOICE. PERHAPS THIS DOCTRINE IS WORTHY OF BEING CALLED

THE PACIFIC ISLAND'S DOCTRINE OF NUCLEAR WASTE DISPOSAL.

THIS CONCLUDES MY PRESENTATION AND I PRESENT THIS REPORT TO YOU WHICH MAY BE OUR LAST REPORT BEFORE TERMINATION OF THE TRUSTEESHIP. I ASK YOU TO REGARD IT AS AN OPTIMISTIC, EVEN ENTHUSIASTIC REPORT, SAVE FOR THE SEVERAL EXCEPTIONS I HAVE NOTED. BUT I ASK YOU TO GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATIONS TO THESE SEVERAL EXCEPTIONS AS TOKEN OF YOUR PARTING BLESSING AS WE LEAVE THE PROTECTION OF YOUR TRUSTEESHIP AND TAKE FURTHER STEPS INTO OUR POLITICAL MATURITY AND INTO THE DESTINY THAT AWAITS US.

OUR LEGISLATURE IS REPRESENTED HERE BY SPEAKER JOAQUIN PANGALINAN AND PRESIDENT PEDRO TENORIO. BOTH HAVE PREPARED WRITTEN COMMENTS. MR. PRESIDENT AND HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL, I WOULD LIKE TO CLOSE BY SUBMITTING THEIR PREPARED COMMENTS FOR YOUR REVIEW, AND ASK THAT THEY BE CIRCULATED AS DOCUMENTS OF THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL.

THANK YOU . . . SI YUUS MAASE.