



Commission on Future Political Status and Transition
FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

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October 30, 1980

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The Honorable Peter R. Rosenblatt
 The President's Special Representative For
 Micronesian Status Negotiations
 Department of the Interior
 18th and C Streets, N. W.
 Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

We understand that several United States Senators recently voiced concern that the Draft Compact of Free Association as initialled last January by the Marshall Islands Government contained no express provision for a long-term relationship between the Micronesian entities and the United States. The Senators emphasized that they have no desire to dictate the future political status of our peoples, nor the form of the Micronesian governments' relationship to the United States Government. Nevertheless, they indicated they believe the written documents which express the emerging Micronesian-United States relationship should evidence in some way the intention of the parties to create a lasting bond.

Let me say that, while our lengthy negotiations have brought many changes to the earlier draft versions of the Compact of Free Association, the people of Truk, Yap, Ponape and Kosrae, who now comprise the Federated States of Micronesia, have not changed in their desire to retain close ties with the United States. I note also that the fifth Hilo Principle states with respect to the United States defense responsibility: "This authority and responsibility will be assured for 15 years, and thereafter as mutually agreed." Thus, our Commission fully anticipates that pursuant to the Hilo Principles and our common desires there will be discussions regarding a continuation of that relationship, including defense matters, on the basis of mutual agreement.

Such discussions would encompass the concerns expressed by the Senators and would focus attention on various Compact provisions, including Sections 354 and 454.

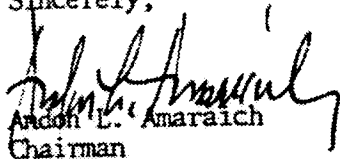
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We consider this subject far too important to address in haste, in the press of the many concluding details of the Compact negotiations. No one fairly can regard the topic of our future relationship as a matter of concluding detail. Thus, without commenting on any of the possible approaches advanced thus far, we wish, after our initialling of the Draft Compact, and prior to its signature and submission for approval, to explore the alternatives for a longer term relationship.

I hope that you find these comments and suggestions constructive. If you agree that they provide a basis for further discussion, I would appreciate your written confirmation.

Sincerely,


Ardon L. Amaraich
Chairman