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COMMITTEES:
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AFFAIRS

ERCHANT MARINE AND

FISHERIES

Congress of the United States House of Representatives

Washington, **B.C.** 20515

April 29, 1985

The Honorable Max L. Friedersdorf Assistant to the President Legislative Strategy Coordinator The White House Washington, D.C. 20500

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RT. 1, BOX 1605 KENAI, ALASKA 99611 BOX 177

KODIAK, ALASKA 99615 501 FEDERAL BUILDING KETCHIKAN, ALASKA 99902

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Dear Max:

The House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, on which I sit as the Ranking Republican, has before it Administration-backed legislation which seeks to terminate the Trusteeship of the Pacific Islands, in favor of a unique new system--"Free Association" with the U.S. After close examination of this proposal, I have grave reservations about the proposal, and about the direction in which it moves U.S. policy in the central and western Pacific.

Representative Steve Solarz is the leading champion of this Administration proposal, and is dedicating his efforts to ensure swift passage through the Foreign Affairs Committee, which shares jurisdiction with the Interior Committee. This fact alone concerns me, as I am unaware of any position he has taken to support the President's foreign policy agenda.

The "Compact of Free Association" was negotiated during the Carter Administration, and represents the failed policies of that era. It rewards the Freely Associated States for leaving the U.S. family, and sends a strong signal to our other territories regarding what they should expect from the U.S. in the future.

I would recommend that the Administration review closely this document, to ensure that it is consistent with our overall goals in the Pacific, with an eye towards alternatives that might accomplish those goals better, with fewer potential pitfalls. At the very least, it would seem to me that the U.S. might develop a scenario where it is more advantageous for these areas to remain part of the U.S. than to become sovereign nations. Under the Compact, the opposite is true.



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Further, I would ask that such an evaluation must of necessity be conducted outside of the existing Administration framework for responsibility for the Compact, and might include the views of those Members of Congress who are increasingly expressing their reservations about the proposal.

Max, I think this proposal could damage the President with some of his strongest supporters, including veterans of the Pacific Campaign of World War II, to whom the names Kwajalein, Enewetok, Truk and Peleliu mean so much. I strongly urge you to review the points included in the attached memorandum concerning the document.

As it stands, the proposal is in serious trouble in the House, and I wanted to let you know of its difficulties. I believe there exists an opportunity to make policy in the Pacific consistent with our long term interests, but the Compact is the wrong vehicle.

I would be happy to discuss this further with you if you wish. Thank you for your consideration. With best regards and warm wishes, I remain,

Sincerely,

DON YOUNG
Ranking Minority Member
Interior & Insular Affairs Committee

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WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

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MAY 15, 1985

TO: DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR ATTN: D. LAUX, MSC

ACTION REQUESTED:

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DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID:

313751

MEDIA:

LETTER, DATED APRIL 29, 1985

TO:

MAX FRIEDERSDORF

FROM:

THE HONORABLE DON YOUNG

U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WASHINGTON DC 20515

SUBJECT: EXPRESSES HIS GRAVE RESERVATIONS OVER LEGISLATION WHICH SEEKS TO TERMINATE THE TRUSTEESHIP OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS IN FAVOR OF A UNIQUE NEW SYSTEM -- FREE ASSOCIATION

WITH THE UNITED STATES

PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL -- IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN TAKEN WITHIN 9 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE UNDERSIGNED AT 456-7486.

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> SALLY KELLEY DIRECTOR OF AGENCY LIAISON PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

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