

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

Dear Mr. Michel:

We are writing you jointly to emphasize the importance of passage of the Micronesian Compact of Free Association as submitted to Congress by President Reagan.

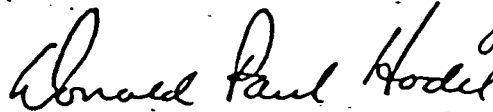
The Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands is a unique strategic trusteeship, created in recognition of the fundamental importance of the area to U.S. security interests. This importance has increased over the years, in relation to the growing economic vitality of the Pacific Basin itself. Now, however, the people of the Trust Territory desire to take up the offer of self-government promised to them by the Trusteeship Agreement of 1947, and we wish to honor this obligation while still protecting U.S. security interests.

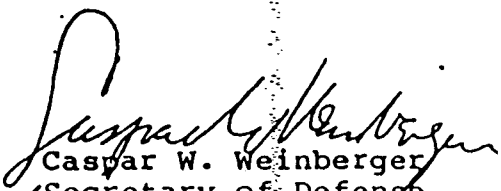
To this end, four U.S. Administrations have worked with the Micronesians to create a new relationship of Free Association which meets the needs of both sides. The Compact provides necessary U.S. basing rights, and assures indefinite denial of the area to third countries for military purposes. It also recognizes the wish of the Micronesians for a greater degree of autonomy and equality, and this essential element must not be compromised by restrictive amendments. It is therefore particularly important that the U.S. Government organization for management of the free Association relationship be inter-agency in character, in order to reflect this increased autonomy as well as the continuity of our relationship.

The compact is before the Congress for a second time, and two factors - the expiration of the Kwajalein lease and Court action on the nuclear claims - make passage and implementation this year a crucial matter for the United States. Moreover, failure on our part to ratify an agreement approved by a solid majority of the Micronesian people would be profoundly disappointing to them and to their leaders, and could well send them on a path to a different and less satisfactory relationship. We urge your assistance in prompt approval of the Compact.

Sincerely,


Kenneth W. Dam
Acting Secretary


Donald Paul Hodel
Secretary of the Interior


Caspar W. Weinberger
Secretary of Defense

The Honorable
Robert H. Michel,
House of Representatives.