

Honorable Don Young
Member of Congress
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Don:

Since my note to you of May 13, I have had an opportunity to look into the matters which you discussed in your April 29 letter to me. I want you to know that we take your concerns seriously and very much hope that you will be able to support the Compact of Free Association when the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee has its mark-up meeting later this month.

I would like to comment on some of the points included in your letter and suggest a way that the matters covered in the attachment to your letter can be discussed and, I hope, resolved in a manner that will allow you to support the President's position on the Compact.

It is true that Steve Solarz has played a major role in securing Foreign Affairs Committee approval of the Compact. We should also recognize however the sustained work and support provided by several Republicans, most prominently Bob Lagomarsino and Gerry Solomon and also Doug Bereuter. Ben Blaz, of Guam, the territory most affected by the Compact, has been untiring in his support of the Administration's position. In fact, the Foreign Affairs Committee reported the Compact unanimously after adding a number of amendments to the Joint Resolution which the Administration can accept. I think the fact that Jim McClure is the primary sponsor of the Compact in the Senate underscores Republican support for the bill.

The negotiations for the Compact were started during President Nixon's first administration. The basic formulation of Free Association was then developed and has guided the negotiations through the completion of the process in 1982. The negotiations were not complete when President Reagan assumed office. Because of this, the President directed a thorough policy review which lasted six months. Congressional views were sought by Jim Buckley, then UnderSecretary of State, who managed the interagency group that performed the review. The Administration took these views into account in formulating instructions for completion of the negotiations. Thus, the Compact, although it has a history spanning four Administrations, is quite clearly the product and preference of this Administration.

You pointed out the need for review and evaluation at the political level of this Administration with respect to the Compact. Congressional consideration of the Compact has, I believe, prompted a continual process of review. The most recent manifestation of this consideration, of our continuing support for the Compact, is the attached May 13 letter, signed by the

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Secretaries of State, Interior and Defense. They are echoing the President's position, most recently stated in his February 20, 1985 transmittal letter to the Congress, that we need this Compact enacted soon for very cogent national security reasons.

Don, I hope you will agree to sit down with Fred Zeder and his team to discuss, in detail, the points raised in the attachment to your letter. He is the Administration's point man and is empowered to structure agreements with you that will allow the direct support for the Compact that we all hope you will be able to express.

Sincerely,

MLF

Enclosure