

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 15, 1985

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

Dear Don:

Since my note to you on May 13, I have looked further into the matters you raised in your April 29 letter to me about the Compact of Free Association. I want you to know that we take your concerns seriously.

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, Gerry Solomon, and 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 Under Secretary of State, who managed the inter-agency 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 of 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 our continuing support for the Compact, is the attached letter, signed by the Secretaries of State, Interior and Defense, which was sent to several senators and congressmen on May 13, 1985. This letter repeats 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 any members of our team -- Interior, State, Defense, and the Office of Micronesia Status Negotiations -- as soon as possible to discuss, in detail, the points raised in your thought provoking letter and attachment. We need and want your support for the Compact, and hope you will be able to join with us on this critical issue. It is very important that the Compact be approved by the Congress before October of this year.

Sincerely,

Max L. Friedersdorf

Enclosures