



Office of the President
THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

June 17, 1985

The Honorable Ronald Reagan
President of the United States
of America
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

I write to respectfully place before your high office a matter of grave concern to the people and government of the Marshall Islands. As you know, the people of the Marshall Islands overwhelmingly approved, in a United Nations observed plebiscite, a Compact of Free Association defining a new relationship between our countries. The Compact was the result of over 15 years of difficult negotiations and mutual compromise. The Compact was agreed upon as the most logical basis on which the United Nations Trusteeship can be terminated. Your Administration reviewed the Compact prior to the completion of the negotiations, and your Secretaries of Interior, Defense, and State have joined you in urging Congress to provide for the Compact's early approval and implementation.

In recent days we have been apprised of a number of amendments which have been offered by various individual members of Congress and congressional committees. Some of those amendments, if left in the law, would so radically change the nature of our proposed relationship that the net result would negate and invalidate all the efforts of our governments to reach an agreement respecting the sovereignty of my people and taking into full consideration our mutual security requirements. These amendments will not only change the Compact but will require that our own commitment to free association be re-examined. If left in the form now proposed, certain of the amendments would amount to repudiation of the Compact and could not be reconciled with the mandate for free association granted by our people in the plebiscite.

My government fully recognizes that the United States Congress has the constitutional responsibility to review and work its will upon any international agreement proposed by the President. We respect your constitutional process and have



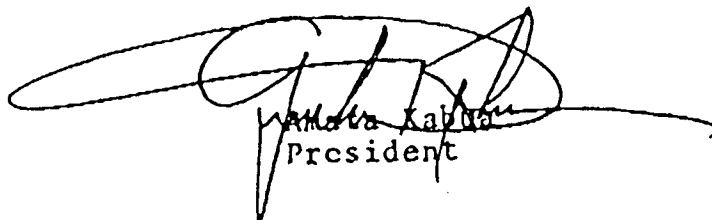
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always recognized that Congress has the authority to provide for the manner in which the United States will implement its authority and carry out its obligations under the terms of the agreement. We also realize that Congress can summarily reject free association as approved by our people. We continue to hope that Congress will find a way to address its concerns and approve the Compact in a form consistent with the agreement concluded by our governments and submitted by you to Congress.

Mr. President, my government is committed to a close and friendly relationship with the United States. We see free association as the best means to achieve this goal. I am compelled, however, to state respectfully that my government will not be able to accept revisions of the negotiated Compact which would deny to our people the dignity and sovereignty we hold sacred above all else, or which fail to recognize the legitimacy and integrity of our constitutional government. If the congressional process results in free association being altered beyond recognition, then our mutual undertaking to ensure a peaceful and orderly transition to self-government -- complete with guarantees of United States requirements for the assurance of mutual security -- will be severely jeopardized.

I call upon you to intervene in this matter to assure early passage of the Compact in a manner which will preserve all that our governments have strived to achieve in our mutual interest.

Sincerely yours,



Yasuhiro Nakasone
President

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