



THE PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE
FOR MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

JUN 17 1985

The Honorable Austin J. Murphy
U.S. House of Representatives
Room 2210
Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Murphy:

The Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs is scheduled to meet on June 19 to mark-up and report on HJR 187, the Compact of Free Association. I hope that you will have time to review the documents which I have attached to this letter, and that you will be able to attend the Committee's mark-up session. The Administration is seeking bipartisan support for approval of the Compact in a form consistent with its negotiated terms, as explained below.

The Compact is the product of fifteen years of negotiation between the administrations of four Presidents and the elected leaders of the peoples of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. Those peoples approved the Compact by overwhelming majorities in United Nations-observed plebiscites. The Compact will recognize the sovereign and self-governing status of the new freely associated states emerging in the Trust Territory and at the same time preserve our defense rights and our strategic position in the area.

While the Compact reflects the progress made by the last four administrations, the Reagan Administration consulted extensively with Congress and conducted a comprehensive policy review before authorizing completion of the negotiations and signature of the agreement. In his televised message to the peoples of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia, President Reagan said the "Compact of Free Association...is an excellent document" which "I will support when it is presented to the Congress of the United States for approval." In his February 20, 1985 transmittal letter to Congress, President Reagan said the provisions of the Compact are "of great importance to our strategic position in the Pacific...Therefore, I urge the Congress to approve the Compact of Free Association."

I want to bring to your attention the attached letter to the Speaker and the Minority Leader from the Secretaries of State, Defense and Interior explaining the Administration's view that the Compact should be enacted and implemented by October 1 of this year. Also attached is a copy of a letter from Admiral William Crowe, our Commander-in-Chief of Pacific forces to Chairman Udall in which he underscores the cogent national security reasons for early Compact enactment. During Congressional consideration of the Compact, several issues have been raised and many of these were incorporated in a letter from Representative Don Young to Max Friedersdorf. Janet McCoy, our High Commissioner to the Trust Territory, responded to each of these points in her May 30, 1985 letter (copy attached) to Representative Young.

On June 5, 1985, the Public Lands Subcommittee reported out the Compact, but with a large number of amendments. I would like to direct your attention to the attached correspondence from the President of the Marshall Islands stating the opposition of the Marshallese people to the subcommittee's amendments. We have already communicated to Committee and Subcommittee staff many of the Administration's objections to the subcommittee's amendments.

I urge you to attend the Committee mark-up on the Compact this Wednesday, and I seek your support for an Interior Committee mark-up that can be supported by the Administration and the Micronesians. Accordingly, I urge you to support approval of the Compact in the form initially submitted by the President, and without amendments which could render it unacceptable to the future freely associated states or which undercut the negotiated arrangements that the President has asked Congress to enact.

Sincerely yours,



Fred M. Zeder II
Ambassador

Enclosures