



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

APR 10 1986

Mr. George J. Adams
Mobility Systems and
Equipment Company
6151 W. Century Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90045

Dear Mr. Adams:

I am in receipt of a copy of your letter of March 10, 1986 to White House Chief of Staff Donald T. Regan regarding the problems created by the issues of land rights and ownership.

As you know, because of the limited amount of land, land rights are among the most important aspects of the Micronesian lifestyle. Under their laws, traditional communal land holdings are protected and land usage or ownership by non-residents is often restricted.

In the past year, we have provided the services of technical personnel from the Bureau of Land Management to both the Republic of Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia to assist in the development, installation and operation of a lands and survey records system. Additionally, OTIA will provide funds for the purchase of specialized program equipment for installation as a component of the computer systems of the respective governments.

As you know, under the Compact of Free Association the United States will provide the independent Freely Associated States with some \$3 billion in aid. For the most part, the Freely Associated States will determine how this funding will be utilized within the terms of the agreement. While we are authorized to provide additional technical assistance and, no doubt will do so, the funding provided under the Compact is the basis for our future financial commitment. Given the deficit condition of our own government, we do not anticipate that the Administration will propose any significant increases in the funding and/or programs already approved by the Congress.

Sincerely,

Kittie Baier
Deputy Assistant Secretary
Territorial and International Affairs