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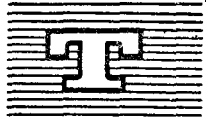
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COMMUNICATION FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, CONCERNING THE TRUST
TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

(Circulated in accordance with rule 24 of the rules of procedure
of the Trusteeship Council)

Congress of Micronesia

KOLONIA PONAPE EASTERN CAROLINE ISLANDS 96941

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SEVENTH CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA
SECOND SPECIAL SESSION, 1978

15 September 1978

The President
Trusteeship Council
United Nations
New York, New York 10017

Dear Mr. President:

I transmit herewith a certified copy of House joint resolution No. 7-130, HD1, SD1, which was adopted by the Seventh Congress of Micronesia, second special session, 1978.

Respectfully,

(Signed) Tadao P. SIGRAH
House of Representatives

Encl.

A HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

Respectfully urging the appropriate committees of the Congress of the United States of America in conference to reinstate the \$12.6 million in the United States Department of the Interior appropriation for the payment of awards under Title II of the Micronesian Claims Act of 1971.

WHEREAS, the total awards certified by the Micronesian Claims Commission amounted to \$34.4 million under Title I and \$32.6 million under Title II of the Micronesian Claims Act of 1971; and

WHEREAS, the remaining balance of the awards under Title II amounts to \$12.6 million; and

WHEREAS, United States Public Law 95-134 authorized such additional funds to be appropriated as may be necessary to make full payment on awards adjudicated by the Micronesian Claims Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Committee on Appropriations of the United States House of Representatives passed bill H.R. 12932 which included \$12.6 million to pay in full the balance of the awards under Title II; and

WHEREAS, the Committee on Appropriations of the United States Senate deleted the \$12.6 million on 17 May 1978; and

WHEREAS, the United States Senate Committee on Appropriations gave the following as its justification for deleting the \$12.6 million: "the Committee recommends deletion of the \$12,600,000 House Allowance for post World War II Claims under the provisions of title II of the Micronesian Claims Act of 1971. The General Accounting Office issued a report on March 7, 1978, which highlighted problems in how the Micronesian Claims Commission made title II awards and in how the initial payments were made. The report recommended improvements be made before additional funds are released. During budget hearings, the Committee learned that the High Commissioner in conjunction with the Federal Comptroller will develop procedures designed to eliminate the deficiencies pointed out in the GAO report. Until such procedures are developed and fully approved, no new funding for title II claims is recommended."; and

WHEREAS, the General Accounting Office's report included specific recommendations to improve the procedures for distribution of payments; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of the Interior has stated that it proposes to follow these recommendations "in the event additional payments are authorized and funds are made available for them."; and

WHEREAS, it is the sense of the Congress of Micronesia that the implementation of the recommended procedures need not take an inordinate amount of time to further delay the payment of all Title II awards; and

WHEREAS, Micronesian claimants have waited more than 30 years to be compensated in full for their meritorious claims; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Seventh Congress of Micronesia, second special session, 1978, the Senate concurring, that the appropriate committees of the United States Senate and the House of Representatives are respectfully requested to urge the United States Congress to reinstate the \$12.6 million for the payment of Micronesian war-damage claims awarded under the Micronesian Claims Act of 1971 within the United States Department of the Interior general appropriation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this House joint resolution be transmitted to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress, Senators Warren G. Magnuson and Robert C. Byrd and Representatives George H. Mahon and Sidney R. Yates, and the President of the United Nations Trusteeship Council.

Adopted: 6 September 1978
