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THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

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1755 Orchard Hill Lane
Gary, Indiana 46408

3 June 1970

Senator J. William Fulbright
Chairman, Senate Foreign Relations Committee
U.S. Senate
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

My dear Senator Fulbright,

Your sensitivity and keen perception of people is a superior virtue that is worthy of recognition. The fact that you are in public service and choose to rise above your position to formulate sound observations of those human forces, who propagate fallible extremes to nonsensical proportions in promoting ill-will, is one clear indication, at least to me, that you measure respect from a human standpoint rather than from an isolated, prestigious political post. As long as your voice is heard and your speeches continue to be printed for all to adhere to, then I can find some comfort in knowing that you speak "my kind of truth."

As Chairman of an important committee and an active participant in today's crucial issues, I am fully aware of your cumbersome responsibilities; nevertheless, I feel personally compelled to share some thoughts with you on our foreign policy arrangements in an area that is less newsworthy than Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos. That area is Micronesia (officially known as the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands) and it deserves much more consideration and evaluation by your committee than what the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee has been able to foster in past years.

H.R. 14110 has been floating around in the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee for some time and its direction is indeed a congressional mystery. The fact that Micronesia was my home for over two years (1969-1970) gives me good reason to comment on its status. In January 1970, I wrote a lengthy letter to many Senators and Congressmen concerning the said resolution. I am enclosing a copy for your review. Also a recent article from a Guam newspaper is enclosed for your close inspection.

During my stay in Micronesia, I had the rich and rewarding experience of sharing and accepting another people's culture, traditions, language, needs and desires. I was teaching in a high school in Saipan, and these young people along with their parents and others in the community afforded me the opportunity to look more clearly at myself - my attitudes, values and behavior - and the initial purpose of my presence. More importantly, after a time, my desire to expand my understanding of human nature took precedence in my ability to look through the eyes of Micronesians in order to feel and comprehend their basic human traits. Needless to say, I was radically transformed, and my earlier convictions (before I arrived on the islands) of human life became intensified to the point of a crucial and fuller awareness.

Micronesia, having gone through a series of foreign rulers, can be compared in some respects with several countries in Asia: many of its citizens are of Asian stock (their ancestors are said to have come from Malaya and Indonesia); their once-secure and meaningful political and social life is now splintered and infused with many versions of superficial American values and attitudes, and their awareness of each other as fellow-Micronesians is just now beginning to make an impact despite the many miles of ocean that separate each island group.

When the U.S. took over administration of the islands after World War II, their compromise with the United Nations Trusteeship Council consisted of a vow to build that war-torn population and land into a strong, viable territory so they would also have the independence of managing their own affairs some day. Twenty-four years later one has to honestly conclude that a few gains have been made toward this end, but for the most part, they are basically on the surface and provide equitable "show pieces" for the annual visit of Interior officials, the United Nations Visiting Mission and periodic visits by U.S. Congressmen. If I am not mistaken or overly-critical, less than

six years ago, the entire inhabited area was practically stagnant - badly-needed economic, social and political programs were still being debated and planned on paper by Americans employed with the Trust Territory Government. Only one area - Kwajalein - was "booming" with activity; namely, nuclear testing (as it is today), and the transporting of Marshallese islanders from their original homes was an accepted (by the military, not the people) aspect of life. This type of destructful progress has most assuredly heightened the fears and distrust in the minds of many Micronesians including the leaders, victims and intellectually perceptive students who will be tomorrow's new force to counteract such exploitative measures.

Today the agenda for Micronesian affairs has taken on a new face - promoting tourism (a device to encourage foreign investment and to crank in more American dollars to purchase more Western goodies. These irrational short-range plans discourage local economic incentives and indigenous responsibilities to the point of neglecting the rich ocean resources and full utilization of arable land.) The growing presence of the military Civil Action Teams in many districts are spreading their "goodwill" in the form of building roads, bridges and constructing needed structures. In my mind I come up with two obvious reasons for their involvement: (1) to convince the people of America's great generosity so if they should decide to move in their equipment and forces in the near future, the onslaught would be welcomed because of their tangible accomplishments rather than weighed with the ultimate long-range circumstances, and/or (2) the Trust Territory Government realizes the need to build up the administrative centers, after so long a neglect. However the low number of locally trained men coupled with the realistic fact that funds appropriated by the U.S. Congress fall short of the amount needed to increase the manpower training programmes leads the administration to request the military to perform the work.

As a matter of record, representatives from the State Department, Interior Department and Defense Department recently made a trip to Saipan to discuss important matters with Micronesian leaders and Trust Territory officials. Although nothing has been made public on the results of these meetings, I can almost safely predict that the Micronesians will get what they want only if they are willing to forfeit land for the sole purpose of building U.S. bases.

My next point concerns America's so-called "goodwill" programs. I, too, was a victim of one of our internationally-oriented endeavors -- the Peace Corps. However I soon found out that what was demanded of me because I was an American was in direct conflict with my reasons for working in a foreign country. I had the option, as you know, of resigning and almost did, but decided not to at the expense of knowing that I would have to forego that valuable human experience. Instead of teaching Micronesian high school students pure abstract ideas about America, as exemplified by our model of the English language, I attempted, and I believe I succeeded with many of my students, to realistically acknowledge and appreciate their individual human dignity and pride. Senator Fulbright, it was a pathetic experience to face classroom after classroom of young people who felt inferior to me and showed it in all their mannerisms. The fear with which the people hold towards outsiders was enough reason for me to try to convince them that it is an ideologically-oriented myth that deters universal cooperation.

My last few months on Saipan were spent working with the Congress of Micronesia. I chose to stay beyond my P.C. tour so as to develop further insight into the university and self-educated men who were chosen by their respective communities to fulfill their roles as spokesmen for their beliefs and needs. The magnitude of their integrity and wisdom convinced me that more Americans should learn to recognize and acknowledge their reasoning, to compromise rather than impose their own temporary demands and values on the people.

Lastly, the enclosed article points out a very dangerous view. My only comment is that political and social unrest will not refrain from occurring in Micronesia, if such a scheme is unilaterally carried out by the U.S. military without the full approval and consideration of all Micronesians.

On my way back to the United States by way of Asia and the Middle East I encountered a warm reception from my fellow-human beings. It is obvious, though, that the greatest stumbling-block we must overcome are those competitive power struggles.

Thank you very much for sharing my thoughts.

You have my full support in the current measures concerning Asia, to re-examine our our foreign policies all around the globe in light of our goals and to continue hearings with pertinent individuals who are both sensitive and critical of our commitments abroad.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) (Miss) Barbara Milosevich

Enclosures:

1. Letter to the Honorable Lloyd Meeds, dated January 9, 1970
2. Article from a Guam newspaper

cc: The Honorable Andrew Jacobs, Jr.
The Honorable Vance Hartke
The Honorable Jacob Javits
The Honorable John S. Cooper
The Honorable John McClellan
The Honorable Henry Jackson
The Honorable Mark Hatfield
The Honorable Frank Moss
The Honorable Frank Church
The Honorable John Stennis
The Congress of Micronesia
Mr. Bertin Borna, United Nations Trusteeship Council w/Enc.2
Mr. Robert Moore, Country Director, Pacific Affairs, State Department
Mrs. Elizabeth Farrington, Director, Office of Territories, Interior
Department

PIPE DREAMS
By Joe Murphy

Is the military interested in the Marianas?

I don't think so. At least not publicly. Or at least not until lately. Listen to what Rear Admiral William E. Lemos, director of East Asia and Pacific Region, Office of the Secretary of Defense said before a Senate sub-committee recently.

"There are essentially three reasons why the Department of Defense considers the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands important to our national security. The islands are strategically located, they could provide useful bases in support of military operations and they provide valuable facilities for weapons' testing. Our continuing strategic requirements in the Pacific and our need to further develop United States missile capabilities will make the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands increasingly valuable to United States security interests in the area.

"The islands are a natural backup to our forward bases in East Asia. Our major commitments in Asia and our deployments in the Western Pacific make it important that these islands be denied to potential enemies. The lessons of the Pacific war are clear on this point.

"The islands of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands also support facilities that have direct and positive utility in terms of United States military operational requirements. Communication stations, navigation aids, storages areas, active air and harbor facilities and test sites for operational and developmental type missiles and critical studies and tests in support of the ballistic missile defense program are a few of the reasons why the United States Government considers it important to maintain a military presence in the area.

"The Department of Defense believes it is in the vital interest of the United States to continue to implement political, economic and social programs which will provide the peoples of these islands with an opportunity to develop a way of life which would act as an incentive to identify their desires and

/...

aspirations with ours. We believe such actions would create an environment in which the Micronesians and the United States could work together towards mutually acceptable goals."

That all does make me suspicious.
