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COMMUNICATION FROM MR. TAKESHI YU HADLEY FOR TRADITIONAL LEADERS
OF YAP, PONAPE AND TRUK CONCERNING THE TRUST TERRITORIES OF THE
PACIFIC ISLANDS

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

PONAPE, EASTERN CAROLINE ISLANDS 96941

The Honourable President
Trusteeship Council
United Nations

Dear Sir:

As you might already know, the traditional leaders of Ponape, Truk, and Yap met in conference on Ponape Island from 8 to 19 April 1974. This was the first time that Micronesian traditional leaders from these districts have had the opportunity to discuss the critical issues facing Micronesia. Out of the discussions emerged several decisions which are reflected in the material which accompanies this letter. 1/

Our Declaration of Unity signals a determination to work together to find solutions to the multitude of problems which confront us today. It includes specific proposals offered in the hope of achieving co-operation and unity. We are requesting that the Trust Territory Government make available money from the Leadership Grant Funds to promote Micronesian unity before teaching Micronesians about the American way of life. In this regard please note our letter to the High Commissioner, the Honourable Edward E. Johnston.

The Declaration also includes a request to the Congress of Micronesia to approve the Marshallese revenue-sharing proposal which was rejected in the last session of Congress. Our letter to Speaker of the House, Mr. Bethwel Henry, and President of the Senate Tosiwo Nakayama, reveals our position.

1/ Note by the Secretariat: The enclosures referred to are available in the files of the Secretariat for consultation.

You will also find enclosed a copy of our position paper which expresses dissatisfaction with the recently passed constitutional convention law. We specifically object to the fact that the election of delegates to the convention will take place on 4 June 1974. We have written letters to the leaders of the Congress of Micronesia and the High Commissioner urging a delay of the election in order to allow sufficient time for political education. Our people do not yet understand the purpose of a national constitution. The "education for self-government" programme just begun by the Trust Territory Government last month has not been adequate in this area.

We are very concerned that the Congress of Micronesia whose Joint Committee on Future Status is negotiating a draft compact of free association with the United States, has such an important role in the proceedings of the Constitutional Convention.

We believe that a dangerous conflict of interest exists here. It may severely limit a draft constitution to prior commitments already made in the political status negotiations with United States Ambassador Franklin Hayden Williams. We propose several areas in which the Congress of Micronesia should not participate and suggest that members of Congress should not run as candidates to delegate positions in order to eliminate the conflict described above.

It is essential that the High Commissioner, an American, have no authority to call a referendum on the draft constitution which may emerge. There exists the possibility that the High Commissioner could hold onto the draft if it did not meet American specifications.

We have enclosed a copy of the Constitutional Convention Law which Deputy High Commissioner signed on 29 March 1974. Kindly compare this to the proposals which we offer in our position paper.

Although only three of the six districts of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands participated in the conference, we believe we were highly successful in stimulating a sense of Micronesian co-operation and unity. We are planning a second conference this year and may reconvene as early as July or August of this year in Truk district. We believe such conferences are essential if the specific needs of all districts are to be recognized, and if we are to find an appropriate future political status.

We offer the enclosed materials in our recognition of your continuing concern for the needs of the people of Micronesia.

Thank you for your consideration.

(Signed)

Takeshi YU HADLEY
for the Traditional Leaders
of Yap, Ponape, and Truk