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

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72 NOV 1969

THIRD CONGRESS
SECOND REGULAR SESSION
July 1969

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Congress of Micronesia

9/25, 1969

Chairman, Trusteeship Council
United Nations Building
New York, New York

Sir:

I transmit herewith a certified copy of House Joint Resolution No. 54 which was adopted by the Congress of Micronesia, Third Congress, Second Regular Session of July 1969.

Respectfully,

(Signed) Carl Heine
Clerk
House of Representatives

THIRD CONGRESS, 1969
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 54

A HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

Declaring that until the settlement of the issue of the Future Political Status of Micronesia, all military activities in any way related to the acquisition or development of military bases or facilities in Micronesia shall immediately cease, until and unless such activity is specifically approved by the Congress of Micronesia, and directing the High Commissioner to intercede if such activity continues or is initiated without the approval of the Congress of Micronesia.

WHEREAS, the time is rapidly approaching when the people of Micronesia will determine the future political status of Micronesia; and

WHEREAS, it is highly likely that in any future negotiations with the United States on the issue of the political status of Micronesia the subject of land in Micronesia and its use for military purposes will be a prime subject of negotiations; and

WHEREAS, the Congress of Micronesia believes that any acquisition or development of land for military facilities occurring prior to or during the negotiations weakens the Micronesian negotiating position by depriving the Micronesian negotiators of control over the very land subject to possible negotiations; and

WHEREAS, the Congress of Micronesia is deeply concerned over the clandestine military activity occurring in Micronesia; and

WHEREAS, there has been virtually no disclosure by the military to the elected leaders of Micronesia as to the purposes of this activity in Micronesia; and

WHEREAS, in the past such secret military activity in Micronesia has resulted in great hardship and loss of land for the Micronesian people, as for example on Eniwetok, Kwajalein and Bikini; and

WHEREAS, at this time there are still pending and unresolved many Micronesian war and damage claims associated with military activity; and

WHEREAS, at this time the military is using land for which Micronesians have not been adequately compensated, and in some cases have not been compensated at all; and

WHEREAS, the reasonable efforts of the Congress of Micronesia to make more equitable the eminent domain law which allows land to be taken for military purposes contrary to our wishes have been halted by the Administration; and

WHEREAS, while the Congress of Micronesia is aware of and greatly appreciates the recent services the military has provided in its effort to win the goodwill of the Micronesian people, the Congress of Micronesia still does not believe, based on past experience and such recent examples as the disclosure that Eniwetok is possibly going to be used for testing of biological and chemical weapons, that the United States military should be allowed to acquire and develop military facilities at this critical time without clear disclosure to the Congress of Micronesia of its intention and permission from the Congress; and

WHEREAS, since under Article 6 of the Trusteeship Agreement, it is the duty of the trustee to protect Micronesia against loss of its land, the Congress of Micronesia regards any acquisition or development of land by the military just prior to resolution of the status question as a possible violation of the section of the Trusteeship Agreement and as an attempt to deprive Micronesia of its most valuable resource and thus limiting its freedom to bargain as to possible future political status; and

WHEREAS, in the past the trustee has assume without consulting the Micronesian people or their representatives that it alone may determine what is in the best interests of the Micronesian people, often resulting in serious hardships to the Micronesian people, the time has now arrived when the Micronesian people should be determining their own future, unhindered by limitations imposed by the United States military; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Third Congress of Micronesia, Second Regular Session, 1969, the Senate concurring, that the Congress of Micronesia declares that until the resolution of the future political status of Micronesia, all activity, military or civilian, in any way related to the acquisition or development of military bases in Micronesia shall cease immediately; and that no new activity related to the acquisition or development

of military bases in Micronesia shall commence, unless and until approval is sought and obtained, by the military, directly from the Congress of Micronesia; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that military or civilian activity related to the acquisition or development of military bases shall include but not be limited to such activities as surveying, construction, land acquisition, in any form including leasing or purchasing, initiating actions in eminent domain for the purpose of acquiring land for military bases, activation development or use of military retention areas, invasion, seizure, reconnaissance, or intelligence gathering, if the purpose of such activity is in any way an attempt to acquire or develop land for military bases; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this declaration shall specifically not be construed to apply to or interfere with weather reconnaissance missions, emergency mercy missions, normal Coast Guard operations, or civic action teams, and any military activity specifically requested or approved by the Congress of Micronesia; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a special joint committee of the Congress of Micronesia is hereby created which shall consist of three (3) members from each House appointed by the Speaker and President respectfully, the committee acting for the entire Congress, shall have the power to receive and hear requests from the military for permission to engage in activities related to acquisition and development of military bases within Micronesia. Upon proper investigation and consideration, this committee shall have the power to grant or reject such requests, subject to approval by the Congress as a whole; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Congress of Micronesia requests that no eminent domain action be initiated for the purpose of acquiring land for military purposes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if any eminent domain action should be initiated for the purpose of acquiring land for military purposes, the Congress of Micronesia hereby declares such action to be null and void; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the High Commissioner is hereby called upon under Article 6 of the Trusteeship Agreement to intercede on behalf of the Micronesian people to prevent acquisition or development of military bases in

Micronesia without the consent of the Congress of Micronesia as a means of protecting the Micronesian people from loss of their land; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to the President of the United States, Secretary of Defense, Foreign Relations Committees and Armed Services Committees of the United States Congress, the United Nations Trusteeship Council, and the High Commissioner of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

Adopted 24 August 1969
