

OFFICE FOR MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

March 15, 1977

The Honorable Andon Amaraich
Chairman, Commission on Future Political
Status and Transition
Congress of Micronesia
P.O. Box 228, CHRB
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950

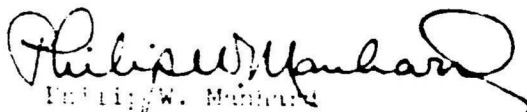
Dear Chairman Amaraich:

My response to your letter of February 8 has been somewhat delayed because I thought it important that you first receive the State Department's reply on behalf of Secretary Vance to questions you and your colleagues raised in your meeting with him on January 17. I assume that by now you have received that response through your Commission's legal counsel. The assurances contained in that reply at the direction of Secretary Vance are clear and unequivocal expressions of the new administration's attitude on this matter.

As for myself, I have been assured that no electronic surveillance was ever conducted during the time I have been responsible for the status negotiations. It should also be understood that, contrary to the implication of some press accounts, the Status Liaison Office has never been involved in any covert activity. Most importantly, I have no reason whatsoever to believe that any CIA activity in Micronesia ever influenced the substance of the negotiations.

It is certainly regrettable that resentment and distrust have been aroused by the allegations about CIA activities in Micronesia. But let me say in all candor that I really believe this unfortunate problem should be relegated to the past. It seems to me that, with the assurances you and your colleagues have now received, we ought to be able to move forward in a fresh spirit of cooperation and with a genuine intention to pursue our negotiations in a constructive way befitting the basic good will and friendship which surely exist between our peoples.

Sincerely,



Philip W. Marshall
Acting Representative for
Micronesian Status Negotiations