

UNITED MICRONESIAN PRESS  
c/o CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII LIBRARY

Saipan, Mariana Is.  
96950

MICRONESIANS WANT INDEPENDENCE FROM U.S. BY 1976  
by F.T. Uludong

SAIPAN (UMP)-Micronesia should declare independence from the United States by 1976, according to a resolution introduced in the House of Representatives of the Congress of Micronesia by Rep. Roman Tmetuchl of Palau.

The joint resolution, signed by four other representatives, also called upon the Congress of Micronesia, a territory-wide legislative body, to reject its Future Political Status Commission's recommendation for a "self-governing state in free association with the United States."

The resolution came on the heels of a meeting on Guam between President Nixon and the Micronesian leadership from the Congress of Micronesia. It is widely believed that Nixon had told Senate President Amata Kabua, House Speaker Bethwel Henry and Commission's Chairman Lazarus Salii that he wants a permanent association between the United States and Micronesia.

Micronesia, the only strategic U.N. Trust Territory among the original eleven after World War II, has a population of about 100,000 who live on islands sprinkled over 3,000,000 square miles of the Western Pacific.

The big question facing the Micronesians today is the settlement of their political future, and the Micronesian leaders, who convened here two weeks ago from all over the 2,100 island territory for the Third Congress, are considering different future political options open to their people.

Among the more realistic political alternatives is the "self-government state in free association with the United States" recommended by the six-man Future Political Status Commission which the Congress established two years ago to make a study on the political future of Micronesia.

Pac.  
DU500  
.A2455

Tmetuchl's resolution has brought into the open the congressional opposition by the pro-independence congressmen to the "free association" recommendation of the Status Commission.

The The four co-signers of the resolution are: Rep. Henry Samuel, Vice-Speaker from the Marshalls; Representatives Chutomu Nimwes, Masao Nakayama, and Sasauo Haruo, all three from Truk.

There are numerous examples of specific incidents during the past 24 years where the Government of the United States and the Trust Territory Government have either been incapable of or unwilling to deal with the people of Micronesia on fair, equal, and just basis," the resolution said.

The resolution called the American Administration of Micronesia "quasi-colonial."

The resolution said, "The Government of the United States..... cannot deny the people of the Trust Territory their destiny," while it professes to be the bulwark in protecting democratic values and assisting the peoples in the underdeveloped areas of the world.

The U.S. Administration of Micronesia, the resolution said, has not resulted in the settlement of the basic problems of the people. Instead the problems have been compounded, "thus providing little hope that any continuing association will result in any long-range fundamental benefits for the people of Micronesia," it continued.

The resolution added that the public hearings held by the Future Political Status Commission indicate that "eventual independence more closely represents the wishes and desires of the people of Micronesia, except the Marianas."

It cited self-government and independence the goals of the Trusteeship Agreement.

"The Administering Authority voluntarily and willingly executed an agreement to administer the islands of the Trust Territory and such agreement unequivocally provides in part that the Administering Authority obligates itself to provide for the progressive development of the people of the area towards self-government or independence according to the expressed wishes of the people concerned," the resolution noted.

The resolution concluded by calling upon the United States to insure adequate preparations towards Micronesian independence in 1976 and the Congress of Micronesia to so declare such desire at this session.

###

3 of 3

UMP-1  
7/29/69

PAC  
DU  
500  
.A2  
U55  
July  
1969