

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 16-4

RE: COMMITTEE TO WAIT ON THE PRESIDENT

DECEMBER 01, 2009

The Honorable Isaac V. Figir  
Speaker, Sixteenth Congress  
Federated States of Micronesia  
Second Special Session, 2009

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee to Wait on the President consisting of Senators Peter Christian, Roger S. Mori, Joseph J. Urusemal and Chairman Claude H. Phillip was duly appointed on November 30, 2009.

A Committee consisting of Chairman Phillip, Vice Speaker Primo (on behalf of Senator Peter Christian) and Senator Mori met with President, Manny Mori on Monday, November 30, 2009 at 1:30 pm. Senator Urusemal was excused. Also in attendance were Special Assistant to the President on Legislative Affairs, Pelsesar Pedrus; Special Assistant to the President on Public Information, Patrick Blank; Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Lorin S. Robert; Acting Director of EEM, Tony Neth; Chief of Staff, Kasio E. Mida; Francis Itimai, Secretary of TC&I and Maketo Robert Secretary of Justice. Staff Attorney Marsha Kennedy staffed the committee.

Chairman Phillip greeted the President and members of his cabinet and informed the President that the Congress had convened for a special session and was ready to transact business.

The President thanked the Congress and listed the following items as priorities for this Special Session: nominations, the proposed supplementary budget (including regular items which were missing from the initial budget requests and supplemental items), treaties and grants.

The President also noted that although numerous staff are attending a conference in Guam that he is conscious of having cabinet members here to assist Congress in this Session.

### **Priorities**

Previously Vetoed Election Bill

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The President requested that your Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations or other relevant Committee please consider C.B. No. 15-43 dealing with financial disclosures in elections once it is reworked and resubmitted. This Bill originated with Congress but was previously vetoed.

#### Nominations

President Mori requested that Congress please give full considerations to the nominations particularly those two candidates who will not have additional opportunities to be considered.

#### Supplemental Budgetary Items

Senator Mori stated that some members of Congress have reservations regarding meeting for supplemental budget requests so early into the fiscal year when Congress may not yet have a realistic idea of the year's budget. Senator Mori also requested a prioritization of budget requests.

President Mori and Vice President Alik stated that certain budgetary items should be set as priority and need consideration prior to the January Session of Congress. For example, education needs additional funding now to begin working as January may be too late. The Caroline Voyager dry-docking needs funding before January because the dry-docking is scheduled for February and certain items need to be completed prior to that date. Secretary of Foreign Affairs also noted that the amount needed for the Caroline Voyager is an "estimate" (which will expire in a few months). The \$36,518 requested for the Infrastructure Maintenance Fund was also mentioned as a priority there is a deadline for the US to match the funds. The \$100,000 request for the MLFC loan payment is also a priority because the annual loan payment is due in January.

The Executive branch noted that SBOC would notify the Congress of the priority of supplemental budgetary requests.

#### Grants

Vice Speaker Primo questioned the Executive Branch regarding the education grant being submitted to Congress. Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Lorin S. Robert stated that the grant would be submitted to Congress once the formalities have passed and the grant has been clarified.

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Lorin S. Robert, Secretary of Foreign Affairs notified the Committee that a \$5 million grant from the Japanese government for solar power will not be sent to Congress until January.

Vice Speaker Primo thanked the Vice President for the work that they have done together. Vice Speaker requested that the two bodies continue working together so that the lines of communication are clear and simple, so that the bodies are brought closer together and so that the representatives better understand what they are to do.

Senator Mori also questioned the Executive regarding public education. The President noted that he has created a special committee to work on education budgeting and planning. According to the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, the issue not settled is the extent of the states participation. Chairman Phillips suggested having the government employees perform the work as was previously done in the 1970s. Mr. Lorin S. Robert also suggested that COM students be incorporated to participate.

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The meeting was brought to a close with mutual expressions of appreciation and good wishes.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Claude H. Phillip, chairman

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Joseph J. Urusemal, member

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Roger S. Mori, member

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Peter M. Christian, member