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SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 17-05

RE: COMMITTEE TO WAIT ON THE PRESIDENT

JANUARY 18, 2012

The Honorable Isaac V. Figir
Speaker, Seventeenth Congress
Federated States of Micronesia
Third Regular Session, 2011

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee to Wait on the President, consisting of members Joseph J. Urusemal, Yosiwo P. George, David W. Panuelo, and Wesley Simina, Chairman, was duly appointed on January 16, 2012.

The Committee met with Vice President Alik L. Alik on January 17, 2012. In attendance were members of the President cabinet and key staff.

Chairman Simina informed the Vice President that Congress was in session and ready to transact business. The Chairman also asked the Vice President for the administration throughout the session to maximize the utility of Congress efforts and time. The Vice President welcomed the members of the Committee on behalf of the President, who is currently away traveling, and assured the Committee of the full cooperation and assistance of the administration. The Vice President also welcomed the Committee on behalf of the gathered staff, and thanked the Committee for their participation. He then proposed a further, more informal meeting be held between the administration and Congress on Friday, January 20 as a follow up meeting and to allow further discussion. The Committee was receptive to this idea.

Chairman Committee members then each greeted the Vice President and staff and put forth items of concern they hoped would be discussed during the meeting, including the Dengue fever outbreak in Yap, various environmental issues, vessel service to outer islands, and the rising costs of government. The Vice President again thanked the Committee members for their remarks and the meeting began in earnest.

The Vice President began by discussing the upcoming State and National Leadership Conference (SNLC). The Vice President expressed his wish that Congress would act quickly on the budget for the SNLC. He stressed the urgency of the budget being approved as the preparatory committee will begin planning and organizing the meeting early next week. The Vice President also stated the administration Congress

The issue of the SNLC agenda was discussed as well. Several important topics such as tax reform, Compact-Impact, and the threshold percentage for passage of Constitutional amendments are prioritized for the agenda.

On top of the request for the SNLC budget is a request of \$13,809 to cover unpaid interest on the GMP settlement agreement and \$28,000 to engage the services of S&P. The Vice President pointed out that MRA would be providing a matching \$28,000 for these services. The Vice President expressed his hope that Congress would approve these two supplemental items and stated they were both important to the President.

Another priority is the remaining nominations. The Vice President stated that approximately ten nominations remain outstanding and several nominations have recently been submitted. The Vice President stated his and the President hopes that Congress will act upon these during the current session.

The Vice President brought up three outstanding bills the administration would like to see addressed this session. These are the resubmitted Environmental Protection bill, the MiCare bill, and the bill to amend the process for accepting sector grants. The Vice President informed Congress that the President stands behind each of these bills. The Vice President also mentioned several outstanding resolutions the administration hopes will be acted upon this session.

Committee members brought up the idea of the proposed overseas FSM census and the status of that initiative. The Vice President and staff pointed out that the grant recently received was for a survey within FSM, not for the overseas survey. As for the overseas census, the staff reported that the details are still being worked out but the overall plan should be finalized soon.

The Vice President raised the issue of the recently submitted Draft Business Plan for the proposed FSM airline. The Vice



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President stated this was submitted to elicit comments and concerns from Congress and that he hopes members will be able to provide some response to it at the meeting on Friday.

The Vice President then addressed many of the issues brought up for discussion by the Committee members earlier in the meeting. Regarding the response to the Dengue fever outbreak, the Vice President and Director of SBOC stated that a \$402,000 compact grant to alleviate the burden on Yap State was expected soon. The grant is from Yap State previous years unallocated funds.

The Vice President stated that the issue of the costs of government operation would probably be discussed at the SNLC and be tied in with the tax reform discussion. The Vice President also stated that the private sector might also be a part of the SNLC and the tax reform discussion. The Vice President further mentioned that many of the other concerns members expressed would be topics at the SNLC and at the meeting on Friday.

Before closing members further brought up the issues of the representation on the FSM Trust Fund, required reprogramming reports, and the importance of sharing information. The Vice President thanked the Committee for these closing comments and promised to further discuss them in the future.

Chairman Simina thanked the Vice President for his time and stated he would inform Congress of their discussion. The meeting was brought to a close with mutual expressions of appreciation and good wishes.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Wesley Simina
Wesley Simina, chairman

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



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/s/ Yosiwo P. George
Yosiwo P. George, member

/s/ David W. Panuelo
David W. Panuelo, member