



The President
Palikir, Pohnpei
Federated States of Micronesia

May 25, 2020

Dear President Trump,

In presenting my humble compliments, kindly allow me to also extend greetings of friendship from the Federated States of Micronesia.

Mr. President, on behalf of the people and Government of the Federated States of Micronesia, I wish to reaffirm our Nation's commitment to the FSM-U.S. Enduring Partnership as enshrined in our Compact of Free Association, as Amended, and convey our Nation's shared grief as the United States mourns the loss of those American and Micronesian men and women who gave the ultimate sacrifice in service to our shared values of peace, unity, and liberty. I had the distinct honor and privilege of joining the Honorable Robert L. Wilkie, Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, in a solemn wreath-laying ceremony last Memorial Day on the margins of our historic meeting with the Presidents of the Republic of Palau and the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and it is a memory I cherish.

Mr. President, it is with a heavy heart that I note that the total number of Americans who have succumbed to the ill-effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic is now approximately equivalent to our island Nation's total population. On behalf of our People and Government, I extend to you, and the People and Government of the United States, our deepest and sincerest condolences, and sympathies.

I also wish to extend our warmest and sincerest appreciation for your People's and Government's continued support to the People and Government of the Federated States of Micronesia. Whether it's through financial assistance through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, & Economic Security (CARES) Act, or the direct donation of medical supplies and equipment, it can be rightfully asserted that part of the reason the Federated States of Micronesia remains COVID-19 free is due to the Enduring Partnership between our two Nations, and the leadership demonstrated by yourself and your Government, to include the deeply appreciated assistance through your Embassy in Kolonia and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention.

Mr. President, one year ago your Secretary of State, the Honorable Michael R. Pompeo, asked me what the United States can do for the Federated States of Micronesia. I noted at the time that our citizens were anxious about the forthcoming expiration of the economic provisions of our Compact of Free Association, and that we looked forward to beginning negotiations soonest. Our correspondence related to our negotiations have been extremely positive, and our mutual goals are very closely aligned at this time.



Mr. President, when I was a student at Eastern Oregon University I read some of the work by the celebrated American Philosopher, the late John Dewey, who wrote that our shared values of democracy, the rule of law, and the promotion of civil liberties is “an expansion, not a contraction, of human life—an expansion in which nature and the science of nature are made the willing servants of human good.”

Mr. President, the People and Government of the United States of America are the first and foremost ally of the People and Government of the Federated States of Micronesia. Of the many qualities and values our People and Government admire in the United States, one of them is that the American People, and the American Government, are renowned for their optimism in the face of adversity, and a profound sense of unity in times of despair.

Though 2020 has so far demonstrated its interest in challenging our World’s resolve, I urge you and the People and the Government of the United States, as you reflect on the loss of our men and women who gave the ultimate sacrifice, to recall that uniquely American optimism, whether it’s in tackling the COVID-19 Pandemic or any other challenges that present themselves.

Mr. President, the People and Government of the Federated States of Micronesia believe in you and the People and Government of the United States of America. We look forward to continuing to strengthen our Enduring Partnership, to include successfully completing the negotiations for our Compact of Free Association. I extend my best wishes and prayers for your good health, as well as peace and prosperity for the People of the United States of America.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David W. Panuelo". The signature is stylized and somewhat obscured by horizontal scribbles.

David W. Panuelo
President

His Excellency Donald J. Trump
President
United States of America