

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 108

Creating a Task Force on the Future of Micronesian Occupational College

WHEREAS, the College of Micronesia, including Micronesian Occupational College, has been governed by and operated under a treaty among the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated states of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau; and

WHEREAS, it appears that the treaty establishing the College of Micronesia will terminate as of September 1992; and

WHEREAS, the Republic of Palau urgently needs a policy that will allow maximum educational development of our citizens and provide affordable access to a local college in order to improve the quality of life for all our citizens today and in years to come; and

WHEREAS, the collective leadership of Palau needs to consider alternate strategies to preserve and improve Micronesian Occupational College, insuring that it will be an effective instrument for the education of Palau's citizen, fostering their intellectual growth and teaching skills useful for their employment and enjoyment of life: and

WHEREAS, the survival of Micronesian Occupational College and its continued accreditation will require assured financial resources to retain students and faculty;

NOW THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me as the President of the Republic of Palau, there is hereby established a joint task force consisting of Mr. William Tabelual, Minister of Education; Mr. Wilhelm R. Rengiil, Special Assistant to ROP President; Senator Peter E. Sadang, Chairman of the Senate Education and Youth Affairs Committee; Senator Tommy E. Remengesau, Chairman of the Senate Ways and Means Committee; Delegate Thomas Patris, Chairman of the House Education and Youth Affairs Committee; Delegate Minami Ueki, Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee; Ms Kathy Kesolei and Mr. Johnson Toribiong, Palau Members of the COM Board of Regents; Mr. Francis Matsutaro, President of MOC; Mr. Felix Okabe, Board of Education Chairman; and Mr. Victorio Uherbelau, Director of Foreign Affairs.

The Task Force shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- (1) Explore and develop alternate plans for the continued legal existence of Micronesian Occupational College and for the selection of a governing body responsible for the management and affairs of the College;
- (2) Interview teachers and students to estimate anticipated losses after Micronesian Occupational College is no longer operated by the three countries and evaluate alternate strategies of attracting enough students to keep the college viable;

- (3) Identify major potential sources of funding, including government grants, operation as part of the Ministry of Education, tuition and fees, private foundations and other sources of income;
- (4) Evaluate the curriculum at Micronesian Occupational College and recommend changes in course of study necessary or desirable because of the termination of the treaty;
- (5) Review the laws affecting education and, if necessary, suggest changes necessary to transfer responsibility for Micronesian Occupational College;
- (6) The Task Force may adopt rules and regulations governing its affairs, and the members shall select a Chairman and a Vice Chairman. Decisions shall be made by a majority vote at meetings at which a quorum is present. Members shall serve without compensation. A quorum shall be a majority of the members then in office and not less than three;
- (7) The Task Force shall report its findings, conclusions, and recommendations no later than April 30, 1992.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal this 16th day of January 1992, at Koror State, Republic of Palau.

Ngiratkel Etpison
President, Republic of Palau