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For the Record
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The Micronesian Bugging Case

From a statement by the presiding officers of the Congress of Micronesia, issued after this newspaper reported that the Central Intelligence Agency had for some years conducted electronic surveillance against Micronesian officials engaged in negotiations with the United States:

We wish to express our dismay and extreme disappointment at learning that U.S. government officials have conducted electronic surveillance against Micronesian citizens. . . .

The Congress of Micronesia has attempted to protect the best interests and legal rights of the people of Micronesia in the status negotiations. At the same time we have also recognized and tried to accommodate the important strategic interests of the United States. . . .

We are therefore especially concerned that the information gathered through electronic surveillance has been used not so much to learn our negotiating position, but rather to exploit differences of opinion within the Micronesian delegation. The fact that the United States successfully concluded separate status talks with the Marianas, and that the Marshall Islands and Palau districts are now actively considering separate talks, is of serious concern. We can only hope that the United States did not actively use this surveillance in order to promote disunity within Micronesia, thus making it easier for U.S. strategists to achieve their goals at the expense of the people of Micronesia and in direct contravention of the U.S. responsibilities under the (U.N.) trusteeship agreement.