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A RESOLUTION

Directing the Secretary of Finance to comply with article V of the Constitution of the Federated States of Micronesia in the exercise of his duties and the operation of the Department of Finance, giving due regard to the role and function of traditional leaders in Micronesian society generally and Pohnpei in particular, and to cease and desist from practices which fail to recognize or honor traditional leaders on Pohnpei according to the customs and traditions of the Pohnpeian people.

1 WHEREAS, under section 1 of article V of the Constitution of
2 the Federated States of Micronesia, the role and function of
3 traditional leaders as recognized by custom and tradition are
4 protected and preserved; and

5 WHEREAS, under section 2 of article V of the Constitution,
6 the protection of the role and functions of traditional leaders is
7 granted the status of a compelling social purpose; and

8 WHEREAS, the Nahnmwarkis and Nahnkens of Pohnpei are
9 traditional leaders whose role and function are protected under
10 the Constitution; and

11 WHEREAS, the practice of the Department of Finance of
12 demanding travel expense reports and vouchers, and related
13 documents, from such traditional leaders in complete disregard of
14 the customary and appropriate method of submitting requests to
15 these leaders dishonors their traditional status, and constitutes
16 a course of conduct which is both disrespectful and offensive
17 according to local custom; and

18 WHEREAS, as a consequence of the Department of Finance's
19 disregard of such customs, certain traditional leaders on Pohnpei
20 have been identified in a local publication as delinquent in their
21 obligations to the National Government for failure to timely turn
22 in travel expense reports and vouchers, which has been occasion
23 for the deep humiliation of said traditional leaders; now,
24 therefore,


25 BE IT RESOLVED by the Eighth Congress of the Federated

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1 States of Micronesia, Third Special Session, 1995, that the
2 Secretary of Finance is hereby directed to cause his department to
3 approach traditional leaders throughout Micronesia generally, and
4 of Pohnpei in particular, in a manner that thoroughly respects,
5 honors, and acknowledges the customary role accorded such leaders,
6 in order that no similarly humiliating experiences are repeated in
7 the future; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
9 resolution be transmitted to the President of the Federated States
10 of Micronesia and the Secretary of Finance.

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13 Date: 3/20/95

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Introduced by: 
Dohsis Halbert