

Embassy Koror has transmitted the text of a letter dated September 30, 2009, from His Excellency Johnson Toribiong, President, Republic of Palau, to The Honorable Eni F. H. Faleomavaega, Chairman, Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and the Global Environment, House of Representatives. Original letter will be pouched to the State Department for forwarding.

Begin text:

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I was shocked and deeply saddened this morning when I found out that your beautiful islands were devastated by an earthquake and tsunami. I became more and more distressed throughout the day as the news reports advised just how devastating the tsunami had been. Words cannot truly express how heartrending that news was to me.

My deepest sympathies go out to you and to the people of American Samoa, especially the victims of this tragic disaster. Please convey my heartfelt condolences to your elected and traditional leaders and to your people. The Republic of Palau and I stand ready to assist your recovery efforts in whatever way we can. Please do not hesitate to call upon us.

Sincerely yours,

Johnson Toribiong

End text.