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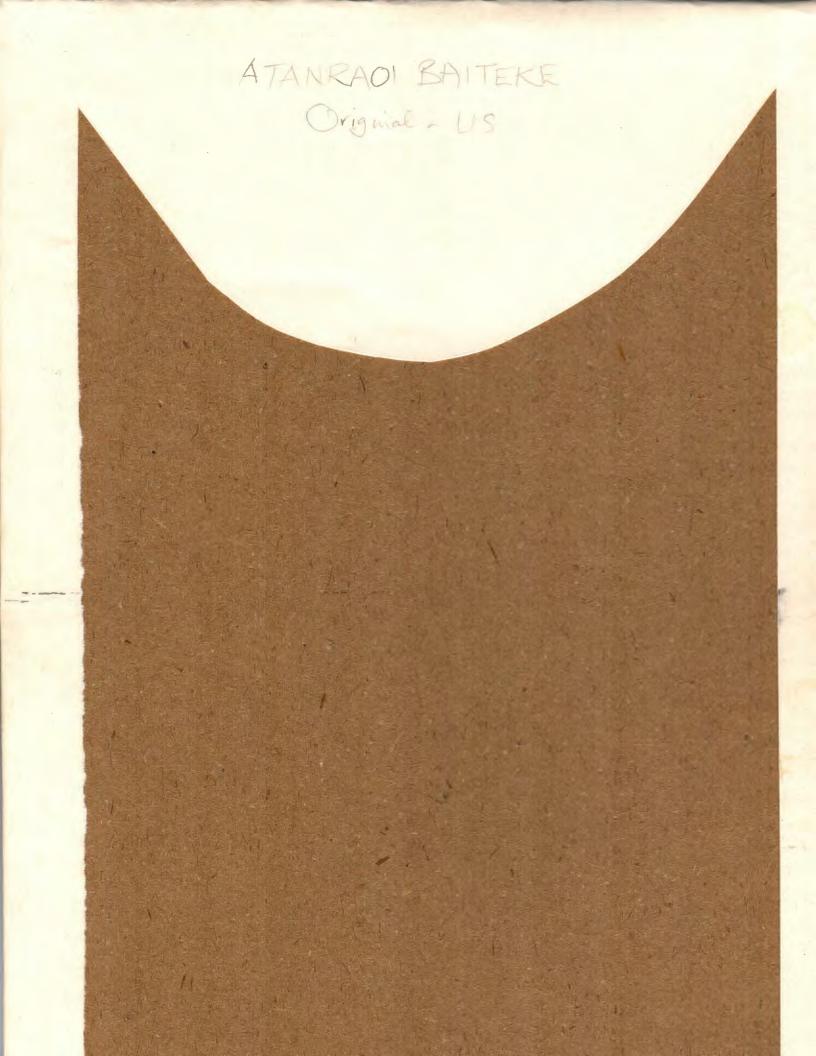
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STATEMENT MADE BY HIS EXCELLENCY ATANRAOI BAITEKE AT THE PRESENTATION OF HIS CREDENTIALS AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KIRIBATI TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES RONALD REAGAN

Your Excellency

I have the honour to present my credentials as Kiribati Amb_assador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the United States of America. Since our Independence in 1979, I have had the good fortune to have worked closely with officials of your Government and have become more appreciative of the mutual interests that we share.

Our historic connections date back to the early days of discovery and particularly the last war when your marines fought bravely at the Battle of Tarawa. Today the relationship between the United States and Kiribati has developed into closer economic and social cooperation during our links with Hawaii and American Samoa. It is my belief that mutual understanding and friendly cooperation between our two countries will continue to prosper for our common good.

I will do my best during my period as non-resident Ambassador to further strengthen the ties between our two countries. I also anticipate that your Government will be able to consider the United States - Kiribati Treaty of Friendship as soon as convenient.

On behalf of the Beretitenti of the Republic of Kiribati and Kiribati Government and people, I extend to Your Excellency and Government and people of the United States our best wishes for a prosperous future.



I. T. TABAI

BERETITENTI OF THE REPUBLIC OF KIRIBATI

To His Excellency Ronald Reagan
President of the United States of America

Excellency

I have appointed Atanraoi Baiteke a distinguished citizen of the Republic of Kiribati to be the accredited Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Kiribati to the United States of America.

He is well aware of the mutual interests of our two countries and shares the desire of this Government to preserve and strengthen the friendship between us.

My faith in his high character and ability gives me complete confidence that he will carry out his duties in a manner fully acceptable to you.

Accordingly, I entrust him to your confidence. I ask that you receive him favourably and given full credence to what he shall say on the part of the Republic of Kiribati as well as to the assurances which he bears of my best wishes for the prosperity of the United States of America.

Very truly yours

By the Beretitenti

1. Tabai

Bairiki 22 June 1981

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