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March 2, 1962

Dear Adlai:

I am attaching a letter from the Secretary of the Interior, proposing a new policy on the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. In my judgment, it moves very much in the right direction, and I am sure you will agree.

Essentially, the new policy would be to treat the inhabitants of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands as if they were Americans, except for Constitutional rights, of course. This would mean a greatly enlarged economic development program, and particularly a program of elementary education in English. (In the present fiscal year, the noble sum of \$13,000 is being spent for the elementary education of 10,000 children; that is \$1.30 per year per child.)

Secretary DeLoe had a lunch today with Hayden Williams of Paul Nitze's office, Carl Kayser, who is Max Baucus's Deputy, and myself. We discussed his letter, and agreed that we should move right ahead on putting up to the President a proposed new policy for the TTPI. Together with Interior we will try to put down on paper a rationale for this new policy, containing a re-statement and re-interpretation of our international obligations under the Charter and the Trust Agreement, and a re-interpretation of our Government's obligations toward any people who are administered by the United States. The net result would be to apply to the TTPI the standards and criteria for welfare, education and economic development that apply in Guam — those standards are being raised for Guam, too, by the new Administration. (Can we still refer to ourselves as now?)

Jack Singler is coming down here next week, and I will hope to go ~~over~~ this ground with him. However, since the matter is potentially very important as a basic work of policy in this Administration, and since it will probably go to the President before very long, I thought you would also want to see it yourself.

The only

The Honorable  
Adlai E. Stevenson,  
United States Representative  
to the United Nations.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY W.V. Helms DATE MAR. 4 1962

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DS  or XDS  EXT. DATE \_\_\_\_\_

TS AUTH. \_\_\_\_\_ REASON(S) \_\_\_\_\_

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The only fly in this ointment is likely to be the difficulty in persuading the Navy to relax its extremely rigid policy about not allowing people to come into the Trust area or the natives of the area to leave it. But Hittor's office will be working on this, and some of us present at the lunch could quite think why we should need so rigid a policy in so strategic an area. Clearly, we can build a fence (whether made of fencing materials or of ships) around any small area that rightly is as strategic as Ikaheleia and Hiniaetok may continue to be; after all, we build fences around military bases in this country in mainland USA also. But that is different from saying that anybody can go anywhere nowhere, which seems to be the present policy.

There is a real opportunity here, I think, to make a highly constructive move before we are shoved into doing it by outsiders. At the same time I think that once we make this move, we will be able to tell the members of the Visiting Committee which went to the TPI last year that it was partly at their instance that the United States policy glacier began to break loose.

The primary action contemplated this year would be a very considerable increase (perhaps a doubling or more) of the \$7 million or more requested in the President's budget for the Interior Department to use in administering the TPI. This may create a good deal of discussion which will be, of course, in the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, not the Foreign Affairs Committee. In the process of explaining this on the Hill, and before that in making a recommendation to the President, both Interior and we here would hope for your active support and encouragement. Yes!

I am sending another copy of this direct to Jack Hingan.

Warmest regards,

Sincerely,

Earl A. Cleveland

Enclosure:

Letter from the  
Secretary of Interior.

cc: Mr. Jonathan B. Hingan

cc: The Secretary  
The Under Secretary  
Mr. Hittor  
Mr. Hittor  
Mr. Sisco  
Mr. Aely  
Mr. L. Jackson

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