

Trust Territory Headquarters  
P.O. Box 542  
Agana, Guam  
March 6, 1962

PERSONAL-CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. Robert K. Coote  
% Department of the Interior  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Bob:

I am very much disturbed over the challenging opportunity and responsibilities that we have here in the Trust Territory, and the many hindrances that prevent us from carrying out what I believe to be the wish of our present administration. I know that it is extremely dangerous and, in one sense, out of order to mention what I intend to say outside of routine channels, therefore on an extremely personal, confidential and friendly basis I am presenting my thoughts to you with the hopes that you may be able to help us in some way or another.

I was deeply impressed by President Kennedy's inauguration address, in particular his attempt to bring peace and prosperity to a restless world, and when he asked that Americans think what they might give to their government rather than what they might get from it. When I came here to work with Wil Goding I was hopeful, because of my past experience with related problems in Alaska, that I might help the administration's program here. I think I shall be able to do so; certainly I shall try, but we have an urgency that is so pressing we must attempt to get help faster than it is usually obtainable through channels.

The large jet airplane that carried me here from San Francisco was filled to capacity and I feel certain that 85 percent of the passengers were fine young American men selected, because of their special skills and bravery, for special duty of extreme importance to our government and way of life. Quite likely some of these traveling companions on my trip here are among those reported killed in recent news articles. We must stop such killings.

Look at the map I shall attach and see how well it illustrates the strategic and important location the Trust Territory occupies in present day world affairs, then note that this is a "Trust" territory which means that the United Nations, speaking for

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the peoples of the world, have entrusted the United States with the management of these important islands. If we do a good job our Nation will benefit. Certainly this is the cheapest and proper way to fight Communism.

These beautiful islands, delightful climate and wonderful people are something grand to work with. I do not believe that most problems here are different from those we had in Alaska other than we have traded perma-frost for coral. Certainly we have a milder climate here to work in. I am proud and happy to be here, working with Wil Goding, and I want to say here that Wil is doing an exceedingly fine job. Here he has a chance to really use his extremely brilliant mind and calm, gentle and considerate nature to do good work and further the aims and policies of the administration. but he is pitifully hindered by past neglect and operating with practically no money.

There undoubtedly will be people who will waste time in criticizing past administrations. Personally I want to avoid doing this as much as possible. But we must have money. There will be many who will want to take the easy way and say this is just money grabbing by bureaucrats and people of this region wanting to suck our country's money teat. This is something we must prevent and present the true facts.

We acquired these islands through expensive warfare and the loss of hundreds and hundreds of lives; certainly we cannot afford to make any serious mistakes so we again have to shed blood in this area. We are occupying this area for very strategic reasons. These people did not ask us to come here but we plan to remain here. These islands, to a great extent, have been devastated, that is to say, great areas are covered with unexploded shells that very frequently explode, destroying property and lives. I attach a newspaper clipping taken from the local paper, pertaining to that subject. Since I have been here on Guam the son of one of our employees was killed by such a shell. Another bomb exploded injuring a family of three and destroying a large part of their home. With hazaadous conditions such as these, certainly no one has a right to say that the residents of this area are asking or receiving even fair rental value for the use we are making of their property.

Let us not, due to failure or neglect, repeat our so-called management of American Samoa. Let's awaken to the needs of the Trust Territory such as we have recently awakened to the needs of American Samoa.

Let's get the money and sound support that Wil Goding needs to

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function here so he can meet the aims and goals of our administration. I assure you he will do a wonderful job. Tax payers will be grateful for the good work he will do and will really get a great deal for their money.

This is a wonderful challenge and opportunity we have here, Bob. Please help us in any way you can to get the message that I have been attempting to express to Secretaries Carver and Udall; I know they want to help the administration succeed. We want to help them do a good job.

My thanks, Bob, for listening to me. I hope you can help.

Sincerely yours,

Jos. T. Flakne

Enclosures

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UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

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March 6, 1962

from

Dear Harlan:

Thank you for your letter of March 1 with regard to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, and for sending me a copy of Secretary Udall's letter of the 26th.

We here are in enthusiastic agreement with you, and will be glad to cooperate in any required presentation to the Congressional Committees involved.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Adlai E. Stevenson

The Honorable  
Harlan Cleveland,  
Assistant Secretary,  
Department of State.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR	
REVIEWED BY <u>w.v. Huel</u>	DATE <u>MAR. 4 1987</u>
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Mr. C-  
Also see file underneath.

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