

Hon. M. W. Goding
High Commissioner of the Trust Territory
of the Pacific Islands
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950

MAY 12 1965

Dear Mr. Goding:

Inasmuch as the medical revolt shows no signs of abating, I think we must immediately turn to steps that might help in causing it to do so. I write to suggest two courses, one in the nature of an urgent request, the second in the nature of a suggestion upon which I hope you will act, but must necessarily leave the matter wholly to your judgment.

First, I know you are aware of our long-standing hope that we would have new ceiling legislation before the Congress as soon as possible. Current circumstances make clear that we must now do so forthwith. From several recent radiograms, I judge that the material we need is probably now in your hands, at least in substantial part. Please send your recommendations and their justifications to us at the earliest possible moment. In any event, please let it not be any later than your own arrival in Washington later this month. There are reasons to believe that both the Bureau of the Budget and the House Interior Committee will take action on ceiling legislation with fair speed, perhaps so speedily that hearings could be scheduled while you are still here this spring. The matter is most urgent, and we look forward to having the necessary material from you very shortly.

Secondly, I cannot help but conclude, on the basis of the necessarily incomplete information before us, that part of the current problem we are all encountering with Trust Territory medical personnel is one of communication. Letters and petitions from medical personnel have been sent far and wide, without your or our receiving even copies, much less advance notice. I can only suppose that your office is being ignored, and Interior increasingly ignored, because the writers and signers have reached the conclusion that there exists in your office and Interior neither sympathy nor understanding of Trust Territory medical problems. Is there not some way in which this misapprehension can be corrected? Can you not make clear, at least to some of the principals in the revolt, that you are aware that the Trust Territory medical program is full of imperfections, that part of the problem is the absence of funds, that you are doing all that you can to obtain the necessary legislation so that medical programs will have more funds, and that what you need for this purpose is their help in making the case? In short, is there not a means by which you can make clear to the petition drafters (if not all the signers) that you share most

of their views and all of their alleged objectives? Unless you have done so, it would seem to me important to assemble promptly in one time and place at least those medical people on Saipan who can, without cost or serious inconvenience, be present, and talk to them along these lines. Conversations can't help but be mutually beneficial in the circumstances. I would suggest that logical invitees to such a meeting ought to include the signers of the grievance to the President (Dr. Schneider and Gloor, Irene Rowland, and Ruth Martin), as well as Dr. Hicking, who we understand signed the UN petition.

Do let us know the status of the first suggestion, and your reaction to the second. I do hope you act upon it.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) Mrs. Ruth G. Van Cleve
Mrs. Ruth G. Van Cleve
Director

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5/12/65