

JUL 2 - 1965

**Memorandum**

**To:** The Secretary  
Through: Assistant Secretary, Public Land Management

**From:** Director, Office of Territories

**Subject:** Trust Territory medical arrangements

Because of your interest in medical administration and treatment in the Trust Territory, and particularly because of the problems we have recently encountered on this subject, I am sending to you for your information various recent documents which will suggest that genuine progress is being made. These consist of a statement composed for the High Commissioner on June 15, following our meeting with him and Dr. Watt, Assistant Surgeon General; my letter of June 17 to the High Commissioner; Dr. Watt's memorandum of June 18 to the Surgeon General; and my letter to Dr. Watt of June 24.

In short, these documents indicate that:

1. Dr. Nelson Ruthig, Associate Director for Program Services, Office of International Health, Public Health Service, has become a consultant to the High Commissioner for a period of three months, and during that time (some portion of which he will spend in the Trust Territory, and the remaining portion in Washington) he will undertake to advise the High Commissioner of the structure of medical administration in the Trust Territory. It is expected that he will recommend that certain specialized medical services now being performed, or which the Trust Territory is attempting to perform, should be the subjects of contracts with specialized agencies or organizations. Dr. Ruthig has been relieved of his Public Health Service responsibilities during this period.
2. During this interval, the High Commissioner will not name a Director of Medical Services. The American physician now serving in Palau, Dr. Howe, will be named Acting Director.
3. The Public Health Service will make available to the Trust Territory Government, for such limited periods as may be necessary, commissioned officers of the Public Health Service to give medical treatment.

4. Dr. Stanley Yolles, Director of the National Institute of Mental Health, will himself visit the Trust Territory in early July to study the care and treatment of the Trust Territory mentally ill patients. It is expected that he will recommend that at least some patients be cared for in modern facilities outside the Trust Territory.

5. A similar study will be undertaken forthwith with respect to the residual polio patients. Public Health Service hopes that Dr. Edward Ruck, an eminent authority on this subject, will provide advice.

Not reflected in the enclosures to this memorandum, but relevant to the general subject, are two more facts of interest. The High Commissioner has relieved Dr. Daniel Schneider of his title as Acting Director of Medical Services and has assigned to him a number of important functions to be performed prior to his departure from the Trust Territory, which will occur no later than next November. Additionally, we have arranged through the Public Health Service for the shipment of measles vaccine for the inoculation of unexposed inhabitants in the Truk District. Medical advice indicates that no others require immunisation at this time.

(Sgd.) Mrs. Ruth G. Van Cleve

Mrs. Ruth G. Van Cleve

Enclosures

cc: Mr. Charles Johnson  
High Commissioner Goding, T. T. P. I.

RGVanCleve:sfr 7/2/65