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**The Necessary New Look at Micronesia - U.S. Trust
Territories in the Pacific**

1. A dramatic new set of circumstances calls for a careful new look at Micronesia, the U.S. Trust Territory in the Pacific.

2. Of course, we have known from past reports of the United Nation's Visiting Missions to the Trust Territory in 1961 and 1964 that the U.S. has been remiss in meeting its obligations to the people in the Territory. While the criticisms in these reports has been carefully under-stated, the representatives of the Visiting Missions clearly point out that a great deal needs to be done. Recently, a new set of circumstances has placed the U.S. in a very bad light.

a. In response to the U.S. High Commissioner's 16th Annual Report, a group within the Department of Medical Services of the Trust Territory, filed on October 30, 1965, a notice of grievance with the United Nation Trusteeship Council. This notice of grievance cited untrue and misleading statements in the Annual Report, and called upon the Trusteeship Council to respond. The petition of grievance also pointed out that earlier petitions to the Department of Interior were neither acknowledged nor acted upon.

b. As a result, the United Nation Trusteeship Council requested the World Health Organization to investigate the complaints. A team of investigators was appointed. As the work of the group proceeded through October and November 1965, word leaked out that the World Health Organization report would be critical. This raised the possibility

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of an attack within the U.N. against the U.S. on its stewardship in the Trust Territories. (The World Health Organization report is now available and it is indeed critical.)

c. In anticipation of this critical report Ambassador Eugenia Anderson, U.S. Representative to the U.N., accompanied by members of the House Committee on Insular and Territorial Affairs visited the Trust Territories. On January 12, Mrs. Anderson issued a secret report on the tour of the Territory. I have read this report and it stimulates my concern and interest. Her report does not mince words. She reports the Trust Territory as an acutely undeveloped area and one that has suffered from our neglect during the last twenty years. She reports on poor health and medical conditions, poor housing, critical educational needs, and the general lack of economic and social progress. She further indicates that unless dramatic steps are taken in these areas we will face serious criticism in the U.N. and, more important, lose the opportunity to bring these people to effective self-government.

3. In 1961-62, the Peace Corps moved very close to programs in the Trust Territory, both in the field of education and in the field of community development. I do not know why the programs were scrubbed, but I assume that since the program exercise moved through signing of 104s, many of the objections to serve in the Trust Territory were reviewed and overcome. Whatever the reasons for the elimination of the Trust Territory programs, at that time, I am convinced that we now face a new set of circumstances.

4. IN FACT, IN MY VIEW THE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT EXIST TODAY IN THE TRUST TERRITORIES OFFER THE PEACE CORPS AN EXTRA-ORDINARY AND UNPARALLELED OPPORTUNITY.

5. While the Peace Corps has had many opportunities to participate in developing economic and social revolutions, the world over, it is not usually the case that we have had a chance to play a major formative role in a revolution that would be almost completely in our hands. I see the opportunity where the Peace Corps could take on in a special project almost total responsibility for many of the problems

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that exist in the Territory and through participation in these programs assist these people in their quest for self-government. For example, it seems to me that the Peace Corps could operate in several important major areas.

a. Teaching and education - There is a great need for teachers in Micronesia. In fact, Mrs. Anderson's report actually calls for special legislation to assign Peace Corps Volunteers as teachers to the Trust Territory.

b. Rural health and sanitation - This is another major area of need. Volunteers would be extremely useful in community development focused on health and sanitation programs.

c. Public administration - In an effort to overcome the lack of administrative cadre, which in turn results from a limited administrative budget, Volunteer public administrators could take on many of the middle-level administrative jobs.

d. Communications - Improvements of the communication system is much needed. A communication project would improve radio communication between the Island, and perhaps even work on the establishment of the first Trust Territory newspaper.

6. I do not see the Volunteers working very effectively under the present administrative arrangements. The recent reports certainly indicate that more effective top-level management is needed out there. Volunteers would be effective only if the top-level leadership were knowledgeable about the Peace Corps and its mode of operation. Carrying this thought a step further it would be very desirable to have as the High Commissioner an ex-Peace Corps Rep. Under this type of leadership a special, comprehensive program could be initiated in which the Peace Corps would take on, virtually lock, stock and barrel, the main problems of economic and social development in the Territory. This type of arrangement would certainly be a very visible and revolutionary endeavor on our part. With a "Peace Corps" High Commissioner (say someone like Chris Sheldon) and a group of Peace Corps Volunteers the stage would be set for

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us to show just exactly how far we could go in stimulating a new economic, social, and even political order.

I have attached the Anderson report. It can be read in five minutes and is important.

Attachment

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