

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 7, 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. WALT W. ROSTOW


Walt --

This Peace Corps' proposal for the time being should be considered as an information item only. Pritchard and Mrs. Van Cleve, the Director of the Office of Territories in the Interior Department, and their staffs have been hammering out a mutually acceptable program. There are still many difficult problems to be solved but both groups are seriously looking for the answers. Jim Thomson and I had something to do with bringing them together after we learned that the Peace Corps, under Jack Vaughn, was now interested in the Trust Territory in contrast with the position that Sarge Shriver took three years ago when we tried to get the Peace Corps interested. I told Ruth Van Cleve yesterday that I thought the White House would be interested in appropriately helping the program as soon as the Peace Corps and Interior had agreed on what should be done. I suggested that the President would undoubtedly welcome a joint proposal signed by Udall and Vaughn indicating what they would like him to do.

Meanwhile, I have arranged for a copy of the Peace Corps memorandum to go to Harry McKittrick in the Bureau of the Budget, who is currently working on the new ceiling legislation for the Trust Territory and the new capital improvements and current operating budget. The Administration has a ticklish job of guiding this legislation through the two substantive committees on the Hill and it would be unfortunate if the Peace Corps' proposal were seized upon by Aspinall or some other Congressman as an excuse for not increasing the appropriation ceiling.

Under Secretary Carver has been out of town and is due back on Monday. I had planned to discuss the final agreement with respect to the new High Commissioner at his earliest convenience. At that time I will also make sure that he becomes aware of the Peace Corps' proposal. I know he will support it because he was one of the people interested in getting the Peace Corps into the picture three years ago.

I attach a short note to Warren Wiggins that you may wish to send in acknowledgment of his memorandum.


Charles E. Johnson

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April 11, 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. WARREN WIGGINS

Thanks for sending me the proposal for using the Peace Corps in the Trust Territory. This has so many obvious and long-range advantages that it is hoped the staff planning now underway will result in some early decisions and action. I am particularly intrigued by the thought of using the Trust Territory as the location for a Far East training center for Peace Corps volunteers ultimately destined for assignment in Southeast Asia. I would hope that this could be scheduled for early implementation because the need is great and the volunteers would be trained by working on practical problems in the Trust Territory thus giving us an extra dividend from their training activities.

Chuck Johnson on my staff has been keeping in touch with Interior and State on the unfolding of our planning and activities in the Trust Territory and I would appreciate it if he were kept informed of any related Peace Corps developments.

Walt W. Rostow

Dispatched 4/11/66