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April 26, 1966

For U.S. Government Use Only -

Mr. Ruth G. Van Cleve
Director, Office of Territories
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Mrs. Van Cleve:

Since Mr. Hawkins' return to the Trust Territory, we have been excited over the prospect of the Peace Corps coming into Micronesia. We have proceeded to query the districts in a positive manner concerning expressions of interest on the part of Micronesian leaders and will forward this information to you via dispatch not later than May 2.

As you are well aware, there are many problems which need to be resolved if we are to adequately utilize the vast potential which is presented to us. One problem area which needs clearly to be understood and resolved prior to Peace Corps commitment is that of our increased ceiling legislation. It is quite clear to us here in the Trust Territory that if we are to adequately support a group of Volunteers of the size anticipated, substantial increases for logistics, equipment, textbooks, school supplies, construction materials and other services must be dramatically increased. It would be quite literally impossible to provide for Peace Corps needs during fiscal year 1967 without a supplemental appropriation. This matter is called to your attention in order that you may judge the possibility of combining the Peace Corps effort and the Trust Territory ceiling legislation in one package for announcement by the President. It would seem to us that an excellent approach to the entire problem of the Trust Territory would be for the President to express his deep concern for the welfare of the people in the islands and that because of this concern and because of requests by Micronesian leaders, he is authorizing the Peace Corps to make a substantial effort in the Trust Territory, and at the same time is requesting Congress to provide increased appropriations in order to assist in school, hospital, road, airfield and other construction as well as to provide for increases in the operational aspects of the government.

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