

442
ok

PEACE CORPS

Washington, D. C. 20525

APR 28 1966

*Apr 28 1966
W. Schafers
J. Austin*

Mr. J. F. C. Hyde, Jr.
Assistant Chief
Office of Legislative Reference
Bureau of the Budget
Washington, D. C. 20503

Dear Mr. Hyde:

On April 14, you referred to the Peace Corps for comment a copy of the draft bill prepared by the Department of Interior and entitled "To amend the Act of June 30, 1954, as amended, providing for the continuance of civil government for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands". The Peace Corps has no objections to this bill.

However, as you may know, the Peace Corps is considering assigning Peace Corps Volunteers to the Trust Territory this fall. This program would be undertaken under the Peace Corps' own authority in the Peace Corps Act, and it would be funded from Peace Corps appropriations.

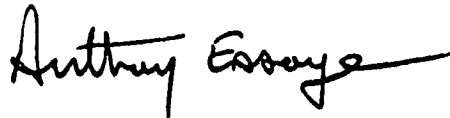
While the Peace Corps' authority under the Peace Corps Act to assign Volunteers to the Trust Territory is quite clear, two statutes relating to the Trust Territory raise some issues. It would be very useful legislative history if the Executive Branch's resolution of these issues was briefly recorded in the Department of Interior's transmittal letter on this bill.

These statutes are 48 U.S.C. 1681(b) and 48 U.S.C. 1684. The former authorizes federal agencies to provide scientific technical or other assistance to the Trust Territory for which that area might otherwise be ineligible, but it places an overall limitation of \$150,000 on such assistance on a non-reimbursable basis. Since Peace Corps Volunteers could be assigned to the Trust Territory prior to enactment of this statute, and since, in any case, the Peace Corps is not scientific, technical or related assistance, this limitation is not applicable. The latter statute provides that no funds shall be used for the administration of the Trust Territory except as specifically provided by law. Again, the assignment of Peace Corps Volunteers would not be for the administration of the Trust Territory.

7

It is also conceivable that, unless informed to the contrary, the Congress might believe that a Peace Corps program for the Trust Territory might be authorized and funded under this Department of Interior bill. Consequently, it would also be important that the transmittal letter for this bill state that, while the program to be authorized under this bill would be carried out in coordination with any Peace Corps program, the Peace Corps program itself is authorized under the Peace Corps Act and would be funded out of Peace Corps appropriations.

Sincerely,



Anthony F. Essaye
Deputy General Counsel

433399