

5/1/68

CONFIDENTIAL

SCENARIO FOR PEACE CORPS PROGRAM IN THE
TRUST TERRITORY

May 1 - Receipt of cable from Trust Territory expressing interest of Micronesian officials in Peace Corps program. Volunteers would serve initially in fields of education, health, public works, and low-cost housing.

May 2 or 3 - Secretary Udall and Mr. Vaughn meet with the President for a brief discussion of Peace Corps program in Micronesia.

May 3 - Four or five-man programming team, under direction of Kevin Delany, Peace Corps Deputy Director for the Far East, leaves for two to three week programming exercise in the Trust Territory. Programming team will also be responsible for writing guidelines for Peace Corps training program which will be conducted by the University of Hawaii.

May 7 - Presidential proclamation and announcement of the Peace Corps program in the Trust Territory.

May 9 through May 31 - Special team recruiting for Volunteers beginning in Hawaii and continuing in major West Coast universities, including those in Arizona. This special recruiting effort will require the personal participation of Secretary Udall.

Team recruiting will involve:

CONFIDENTIAL

433360

247

It was the consensus of the group in Honolulu that a Peace Corps programming team should be dispatched immediately to the Trust Territory in order to discuss program specifics and to write guidelines for a training program. The discussions in Honolulu also included agreement on the desirability of getting a request for the Peace Corps from Micronesian officials. Commissioner Goding felt that it would be possible to secure from Micronesian leaders in each district and from prominent members of the Micronesian Congress a request for Peace Corps Volunteers to serve in Micronesia. The Commissioner indicated that he would solicit this request and relay it to Washington by May 1. This expression of Micronesian interest, which has been expressed heretofore many times would be the basis for an announcement of the Peace Corps program in the Trust Territory.

- (2) The Announcement of the Program: As I indicated in my memorandum to Under Secretary Carver, this special effort in the Trust Territory will require as much help as we can get from the White House, indeed, from the President himself. My suggestion is that on or about May 7, the President issue a special proclamation and/or a press conference statement that he is calling for a special Peace Corps effort in the Trust Territory, in response to the request of Micronesian officials. The President could briefly point out that the time has come for the United States to make a concentrated effort to bring the people of Micronesia to that point of economic and social development which would serve as the basis for their ultimate self-governing status. My suggestion is that the Trust Territory program, dispatching young Americans overseas to the Trust Territory for the peaceful and constructive purposes of assisting the Micronesians in their economic and social

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~433361
211

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

- 3 -

development could be presented in contrast to the President's responsibility of sending other Americans overseas in endeavors that are not quite so peaceful. I have heard the President on one or two occasions state that the responsibilities of sending troops overseas weighed heavily upon him and that he would much rather send young Americans overseas in the type of effort the Peace Corps is noted for.

Attached is a scenario of the steps which would serve us best in mounting a special recruiting effort for 500 Volunteers in the Trust Territory. In due time, we will also submit wording for the proclamation and suggested wording for a press announcement. I hope you will be able to advise and assist us in carrying out this scenario. The assistance of the White House is of critical importance to this whole effort. Without it, I doubt that we will get very far off the ground.

- (3) Recruiting: Once the Presidential proclamation and statement are issued, we can then mount a special recruiting effort. Secretary Udall and Jack Vaughn could issue letters of invitation to every terminating Peace Corps Volunteer requesting their two-year re-enrollment in the Trust Territory. A similar letter could be sent to every terminated Volunteer, making the same request. We would request Governor Burns of Hawaii to issue a supplementary proclamation calling for a contingent of 100 or more Volunteers from Hawaii. Since the entire group for the Trust Territory will be trained by the University of Hawaii and draw heavily upon the competence and resources in Hawaii, our feeling is that we will get a good response. In addition, the appointment of Bill Norwood, who is well known in Hawaii, should enhance this effort. We will then proceed from Hawaii to the West Coast carrying out our special recruiting effort at

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

241

433362

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

- 4 -

approximately 15 or 20 universities. Taking advantage of both Secretary Udall's and Jack Vaughn's enthusiasm and the weight of the President's proclamation, we should be able to enlist the assistance of the Volunteers we need in the first phase of programming.

- (4) Programming: On or about May 3, we will dispatch to the Trust Territory four or five experienced programmers who, in consultation with both Micronesian officials and members of the Commissioner's staff, will draw up the details of the program and formulate the guidelines for training. Our present expectation is that we will be able to begin training sometime late in July or early August, leading toward an October arrival of Volunteers in the Trust Territory.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

433363
244