

SPECIAL HANDLING

Designee _____
Deadline _____
Action Officer _____ Date _____

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**MEMORANDUM TO: The Honorable Stewart L. Udall
Secretary of the Interior**

**The Honorable Joseph J. Sisco
Assistant Secretary, Bureau of
International Organization Affairs
Department of State**

**Mr. C. E. Johnson
The White House**

**Mr. Robert Vaughan
Deputy Assistant Secretary
Public Land Management
Department of the Interior**

**FROM: Ross Fritchard
Regional Director for the Far East**

Last evening Bill Moyers asked Jack Vaughn to submit a letter for the President's signature which would request Peace Corps participation in the Trust Territory.

Attached is the draft letter which follows closely the text of the draft announcement for the President which was submitted earlier in the week.

Attachment

5-4-66 (Revised)

**DRAFT LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT TO JACK VAUGHN ON THE
TRUST TERRITORY**

Address

Dear Jack:

I am writing to call your attention to a new development in the Trust Territory of the Pacific and to urge the greatest possible involvement on the part of the Peace Corps.

On May 3 there was relayed to me by Secretary Udall a request from members of the Congress of Micronesia for Peace Corps Volunteers to serve in the fields of education, health, public works, and community development.

As you well know, after World War II the United States undertook the responsibility for administering the Trust Territory and for promoting the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the Micronesian people towards self-government or independence. Ultimately the people of Micronesia must decide what their future status will be. It is evident that a good school system, effective health programs, and a vigorous economy are the prerequisites of stable democratic government.

Since the war, the United States has been interested in assisting the Micronesians with these improvements, but frankly the pace of development has not been as rapid as we would like to see. Critical shortages of classroom teachers, health aides, and community development workers have sharply curtailed the pace of development.

I am confident the Peace Corps can make a major contribution in this area. Over the past five years I have been much impressed with the contributions the Peace Corps has made in the fields of education, health, public works, and community development. More especially I have been delighted to see how well Volunteers work and live among the people, stimulating their pride in self-help and encouraging their interest in citizen participation.

Clearly the needs of the people of Micronesia and the competence of the Peace Corps are compatible.

With this in mind I would like to encourage you and your associates to respond to this request. I will also be asking the Congress to approve the Department of the Interior's omnibus legislation which seeks to improve the capital budget of the Territory and to raise the level of the Interior Department's continuing effort in the Territory. However, I see the Peace Corps' role as a very special kind of effort being separate and apart from the daily tasks of civil administration.

It is my hope that young Americans, particularly those finishing college this June, will join us in this program. I would also like to see a number of Volunteers who are finishing their service this June reenroll for another tour in Micronesia.

Last fall when I signed the Peace Corps Act of 1966 I was much impressed with the group of returned Volunteers who visited with me in the Rose Garden. I could not help but feel then, as I do now, what a wonderful day it would be when I could send bright, energetic young Americans overseas solely for the purposes which these ex-Volunteers had served instead of having to ask so many to respond to a call to arms. Although that day has not yet come, I do feel that it is a happier part of my responsibility to ask you to respond to this request of the people of Micronesia as they seek to establish themselves in the world community.

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson