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Director's Staff Meeting

May 26, 1966

In Vaughn's and Wiggins' absence, Staff Director Markham Ball chaired the meeting.

Pritchard reported that Delany had just returned from the Trust Territory where he and a five-man team made the final programming check on the first phase of the Peace Corps program in Micronesia. Before Delany reviewed his visit, Pritchard commented on some of the observations arising from the letter Mankiewicz quoted in Tuesday's staff meeting.

Pritchard said that he would like to dispell the notion that the Trust Territory program had been developed solely as a result of a three-weeks visit in the Trust Territory by Delany and his team. Pritchard indicated that program planning actually began in February, and it was Pritchard's view that no other program in Peace Corps history had such extensive program information at its disposal as did this program for Micronesia.

Pritchard pointed out that in 1963, Anthony Solomon, the present Assistant Secretary of State for Economic Affairs, led a task force to the Trust Territory and reviewed program needs there. Solomon submitted 1,800 pages of program data in his final report to President Kennedy. This information was of immense value to the Peace Corps in analyzing program needs for the Trust Territory. Also available were two extensive reports by the Visiting Mission of the U. N. Trusteeship Council, plus a report by the World Health Organization on health needs in the Territory.

Robert Nathan and Associates have been conducting an economic survey and have been in constant contact with the Far East Region. Finally, Eugenie Anderson, U. S. Ambassador to the United Nations Trusteeship Council, reported on her visit last year.

Pritchard pointed out that this extensive reporting was used in February, March and April as the basis for a tentative Peace Corps program. These tentative programs were then discussed with leading Trust Territory officials in Honolulu over a two-day period last month. Delany's mission merely represented a final checking through of programming that had resulted from a four-month continuing effort.

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As a result, the first phase of the program, which will begin training on or about August 1, will consist of activities in education, public health, public works, and public administration. There will be 177 elementary teachers and 18 secondary school teachers. These teachers will also be trained in community development and all will participate in community action activities outside the classrooms. The elementary teachers are expected to teach 25 hours of English per week in the classrooms, assist Micronesian teachers improve their English, organize adult education courses and do community development work. Pritchard pointed out that there was no question of need for these teachers. Out of 770 Micronesian teachers, Delany found that only 15 were qualified.

The public health program will include 80 Volunteers. They will make preliminary TB and leprosy control surveys leading to control programs for these diseases. They will also be trained to teach basic health classes in elementary schools and will work in community health projects. The public works group will include engineers, surveyors, architects and city planners. Pritchard plans to put one architect and city planner in each of the six districts and their primary job will be to plan and develop low-cost housing. This will give the Peace Corps an opportunity to use hard-to-place architectural skills.

The public administration component of the program will consist of six lawyers (one in each district to serve as public defenders for Micronesians). Six business administration graduates will also be programmed to work with local business enterprises.

Pritchard said he would like to farm the training for the teachers out to industry, with a view toward experimentation and trying things we have difficulty getting accepted elsewhere. With a free hand in education, Pritchard feels we can demonstrate some new concepts and approaches to education. The remaining components; health, public works and public administration will be trained at the University of Hawaii.

The second phase of the program calls for fall training and arrival near the first of the year. It will include 50 to 75 additional teachers, primarily scheduled to teach in the mission schools, and an increased health program. Pritchard said a "corpsman-type person is badly needed in the Trust Territories as there is presently no one to handle the routine dispensation of drugs, medicines and such, although the structure for this work is often available. An extended training period is being considered for

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this program. A communications program is also planned, using Volunteers to set up adequate radio systems and perhaps to establish the Islands' first newspaper. Vocational education and agriculture are also being considered. Plans for economic development also will be included in the second phase.

The Nathan Report will be completed in June and will be valuable in planning the economic development programs. Pritchard said the people involved in the Nathan Report feel the Peace Corps is moving in the right direction. After they had learned the Peace Corps was interested in going to the Trust Territories the Nathan people rewrote their report, including the availability of Volunteers as a prime resource for economic development.

Pritchard said programming wasn't much of a mystery before Delany's team went there, but they wanted to get a feel for the Islanders' attitude towards the Peace Corps coming and to get the feelings of some 30 terminated Volunteers who are teaching in the Islands on contract. The unprecedented problem of field support was also explored and the concensus was that while support will be difficult, the situation is manageable. It will involve the use of radios between islands and travel will be done largely by boat.

Delany said the group found that the Trust Territories offer some of the most demanding, yet satisfying, assignments in the Peace Corps. The assignments will mostly be isolated since many of the islands have only 100 people. Delany said one is struck by the natural beauty of the islands and by the contrasting ugliness of some of our leftovers from the Navy days. He said the former Volunteers who are teaching there on contract have impressed both commission officials and the Micronesians, although none appeared to be outstanding Volunteers. He said nearly all the contract teachers are excited about Volunteers coming.

Delany saw the Yap Islands Congress in session, and found they were enthusiastic about the Peace Corps and yet, because of previous American experiences, gave the impression that they would believe Volunteers were coming when they arrived. They were curious as to how the Peace Corps would fit in the Trust Administration. Delany said his explanation that we would work within the administration but not be directly attached to it and that our commitment would be to serve the Micronesian people seemed to be accepted.

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He said the group came away with the impression that this is tailor-made for the Peace Corps.

DuSault asked if the Peace Corps planned to buy planes for the project. Delany said no, that the existing plane service is being expanded and a seaplane may be added to the remote eastern islands. The Coast Guard and Navy planes at Guam may also be available. Every island is now reached every six weeks or two months, and Delany thinks this time can be decreased.

Quimby asked if there were any export products besides copra. Pritchard said there is very little, although the Japanese had built up a commercial fish and sugar industry. He said commercial fishing has potential, and the Nathan people said cattle and truck farming would probably be successful. Guam offers some market for such produce since the military base now imports most of these articles from the U. S. at a greater expense than would be incurred by purchasing them nearby.

Parrott asked if the School-to-School Program could be applicable to the Islands. Delany said several hundred schools, along with housing for teachers have already been built, but that the School-to-School Program might be useful at some future point.

Quimby asked if any water was imported. Pritchard said he has read nothing which indicates water is imported, but that less than 10 per cent of the Islanders have a protected water supply.

In response to a question by Ball, Pritchard said he would like to organize language training so that each Volunteer will be taught the dialect of his area before he gets there. He feels the Micronesian dialects are not the most difficult ones we have dealt with.

Pritchard said he would like the record to show a statement of appreciation from the Far East Region for the efforts the Division of Recruiting has made in this recruiting drive. "The Division and all the recruiters have done a great job. They came in at the tail end of the recruiting season, and the application figures speak for how valuable they were."

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Page said the issue of Look Magazine featuring President Kennedy and the Peace Corps will be out today.

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Acting Executive Secretary