

JUL 18 1966

Miss Elizabeth A. Brown
Director
Office of United Nations Political Affairs
Department of State
Washington, D. C.

Dear Miss Brown:

Under Secretary Carver has asked me to acknowledge with his thanks the comments on his statement for the House Interior Committee on H. R. 15996, as contained in your letter of July 15. He has reviewed your suggestions in detail and, to the extent compatible with the general objectives of the statement, appropriate revisions have been made.

We regret, however, that it has not been possible to adopt the extensive deletions proposed in your numbered paragraphs 1, 2 and 3. With respect to your concern about the differences between the Trust Territory and those areas over which the United States holds or has held complete sovereignty, we think that the statement gave proper emphasis to those distinctions, especially in the material beginning on page 10 of the draft. However, in view of your concern, this point has been sharpened to indicate more clearly the significance of the differences.

Similarly, the discussion of the "colonialism" issue and General Assembly Resolution 1514 anticipates and is in response to a known interest in the subject by the House Committee. We think it far more preferable to submit a prepared statement than to attempt an impromptu discussion in response to Committee questions which would be out of the context of the main presentation.

As you have noted, this Department has had extensive experience with this particular Committee and is acutely conscious of its "direction of interest." We are convinced that the success of this legislation depends upon our ability to persuade the Committee that we recognize and adhere to the constitutional allocation of responsibilities in territorial government. In our judgment this can best be achieved by a presentation in historical context; in fact, we think it is the only effective approach. It is for this reason that the statement takes the form of a comprehensive review of political alternatives, as reflected in past practice as well as current tendencies. If the

legal distinctions of the Trust Territory situation are properly emphasized, we are confident that the Under Secretary's revised statement will provide a sound and acceptable basis for the Committee's consideration of the ceiling proposal.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) Mrs. Ruth G. Van Cleve

Mrs. Ruth G. Van Cleve
Director

cc: Under Secretary Carver
Charles Johnson, NSC

RVanCleve:sfr 7/18/66