



HIGH COMMISSIONER
Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950

September 23, 1966

Dear Ruth:

Here's a quick rundown on several recent developments--

1. Ebeye. You probably received a copy of my dispatch to Col Healy at Kwaj. We've decided here that bold, fast new action on Ebeye is essential. I'm enclosing a copy of my confidential letter to Dwight giving more information. If Jim Hawkins is in Washington at the time this reaches you, please let him read the Heine letter. These actions and plans emerged from a staff meeting this morning.
2. Peace Corps. I am still holding the Vaughn-Norwood agreement pending receipt of your comments regarding changes made in the original draft which I signed in Washington. However, I do not detect any significant or substantial change or addition other than the last sentence under No. 7. That sentence was added by Jack Vaughn. I construe the words, "where feasible" as giving me an adequate escape hatch. If I don't get your letter in another day or so I'll have to go ahead with the document as is. We must have it as the base for our operating understanding with the PC and I believe it gives the TT the authority we need to stay on top of this joint venture.
3. Seth Thompson. There seems to be no good alternative to the rif action. Seth never should have been hired in the first place, as you know. He does not have the talent, attitude, understanding or interest to do the job. He probably has a health problem (psychological-physical). We probably will set up a new job with broader scope of responsibility for which he would not qualify for re-employment. We may defer doing this until John DeYoung's plans come into sharper focus.

We need to strengthen--not weaken--this arm of our effort. Riffing is a poor way to start, but John did not feel we could document a sure case for dismissal. You and Mrs. Vidi probably can appreciate our problem in view of your strong resistance to

my initial plans for dealing with Mr. Neas.

I think we will have to think through and develop some sound TT-wide program of political education in preparation for a possible plebiscite a few years hence. Our already sizeable reporting and public information requirements justify a strong writing-editing section in our public affairs setup. So the rif action is merely a device to develop some opportunity for changes.

4. Roger St. Pierre. Your letter on this subject did indeed provide somewhat more information than I could digest at one time. Mr. St. Pierre has been on leave the entire four months of my tenure. He returned yesterday and promptly called on me this morning to take up the subject of his rating. The fact that he chose to apply pressure through Senator Pell has a reverse effect on me. (Congressman Aspinall and I have at least one thing in common, a strong aversion to "pressure.") However, I told Mr. St. Pierre I would review his file and advise him of my recommendation as I get time to do so.

Sincerely yours,

WRN (Bill)

W. R. Norwood
High Commissioner

Mrs. Ruth G. Van Cleve
Director, Office of Territories
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Washington, D. C.

Enclosure