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15 October 1966

Mrs. Ruth G. Van Cleve
Director
Office of Territories
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Mrs. Van Cleve:

On the 4th of October I again had the opportunity to meet with Mr. Milner of your Office. Some nine months previous, Mr. Milner provided me with encouragement and materials upon which to initiate some specialized graduate studies on U.S. noncontiguous areas under the cognizance of the Office of Territories. The Graduate School of the University of Maryland has granted me permission to concentrate on these noncontiguous areas as a valid speciality within the international field in efforts to attain both my MA and PhD degrees.

An assimilation of the information provided by Mr. Milner, continuing efforts to absorb the publications contained in the "Selected Bibliography" as prepared by the Public Information Office in Saipan, Congressional and United Nations records, a subscription to the South Pacific Bulletin, and my exposure to the general national and international scene throughout my graduate work have all served to reinforce the validity and enthusiasm of my initial incentives.

With your assistance I could complete my graduate requirements for the MA degree this June. Several months ago I completed, as a term project, a 53 page documented general background study on the Trust Territory. Upon this basic empirical research I would next hope to investigate the subjective aspects of administration. By these I mean the attitudes, experiences, perceptions, limitations, and external impacts upon the Office of Territories in the performance of its mission. Such a project was discussed with Mr. Milner and was endorsed for me as a term project by Dr. Frank Burdette, Director of the Bureau of Governmental Research at the Graduate School of the University of Maryland. An envisioned combination of my background study, subjective study, and complimentary graduate work would form the basis for my MA Thesis.

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picture and any necessity for a particular quote or credit would be submitted to you for your authorization or disapproval. In view of the follow-up work and time parameters it would be most helpful to complete this phase during the week of 24-28 October.

Tab B represents my attempts at a comprehensive interview and/or questionnaire outline to be used on those persons who would appear to exercise the greatest indirect or direct influence on the Office of Territories as extracted from the initial interviews. Your evaluation and recommendations would be extremely beneficial in regard to its structuring and utility.

It is hoped I have not been presumptuous as a result of my enthusiasm and interest and that my requests for your assistance are possible, relevant, and will be authorized. I have enclosed both my home phone number and work number in hopeful anticipation of an appointment for the initial interview. There is no objection on my part for conducting interviews during non-working hours or at home, if deemed appropriate.

Sincerely,

George A. Thomas

George A. Thomas
Captain USMC

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