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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF TERRITORIES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

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APR 5 - 1967

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John

Miss Elizabeth Ann Brown
Office of United Nations
Political Affairs
Room 6334
Department of State
Washington, D. C. 20520

Dear Miss Brown:

To keep you advised of developments with respect to the United Nations Visiting Mission in the Trust Territory, enclosed is a copy of a letter from High Commissioner Norwood dated March 17, 1967, together with a copy of the question and answer material which was provided the Mission on its departure from the territory. The material will, I believe, be useful. I do wish to call specifically to your attention, however, the question and answer on page 25.

Mr. Norwood's letter of March 17 refers to some observations made by the Visiting Mission concerning Peace Corps activities. He subsequently elaborated on this matter somewhat in another letter to me on a different subject and I quote the pertinent paragraphs below:

"Three members of the Mission were so concerned about a new source of political divisiveness in the territory that they took all three of us aside and expressed their concern. There concern was that the Peace Corps is so proud of its predilection for turning their volunteers loose without any political orientation (on the premise that this is "propagandizing") that they are actually inculcating a sort of growing political anarchy in the territory. According to these three members, a substantial number of Volunteers are feeding the flames of Micronesia nationalism by counseling the Micronesian people that it is not certain that United States efforts are anything more than another exercise in "onward the course of empire." Some PCVs are alleged to be urging that the Micronesian leaders go very slowly in making any political decisions, but rather should use the United Nations and any other pressure source for an increasing investment by the United States in capital improvements in the territory. After a substantial period of such development, and a period of ten years was most often cited, the Micronesians could then make up their minds on whether or not they could go it alone, and thereby presumably realize all of the profits of past investment for themselves.

"The other observation that was made by at least two members (not staff) of the Visiting Mission was that given these counter-forces at work, perhaps the United States should consider proceeding unilaterally to invite the Micronesians to associate with the United States without any other formality.

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To understand, read "Page 1"

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"This could be done through a one-option plebiscite, without any participation by the United Nations and without any orientation on any other political alternative. Our Mr. Craley leans toward the virtues of this course, also."

Although we expect to do so soon, we have not yet discussed this matter with the Peace Corps. Because of the political future implications, I believe you should be aware of it now.

Sincerely yours,

Ruth G. Van Cleve

Mrs. Ruth G. Van Cleve
Director

Enclosures

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