



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

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Mr. Helms:

JUL 27 1967

I very much appreciate your sharing with me the letter to you from the Managing Editor of the Guam Daily News, Joseph Murphy, and the memorandum on the Trust Territory's current situation and prospects. While Mr. Murphy is not known to me sufficiently to permit me to offer any general appraisal, we regard his newspaper as a responsible one and most of the facts in his letter as being correct and supportable. I do not, however, share his conclusions, which seem to me an overstatement, although I do believe that the pro United States sentiment in the Trust Territory is likely to erode, rather than increase, as time passes.

Because of this fact, this very morning I brought the matter of the political future of the Trust Territory officially to the attention of the House Interior Committee. I enclose a copy of my prepared statement. Our position, as you can see, is the product of close cooperation and study for many months by the Departments of Defense, State, and the Interior. We expect that within the next week, an Executive Communication will go forward to the Congress, over the President's signature, calling for the creation of the study commission which I discussed this morning. The Committee appeared receptive to this approach and we expect to press for very early action.

Sincerely yours,

(s) Stewart

Secretary of the Interior

Mr. Richard Helms
Director, Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C. 20505

Enclosure

cc Mrs. Van Cleve

DECLASSIFIED

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By Duk, NARA, Date 1-9-89