

SEP 22 1957

Hon. William W. Horwood
High Commissioner of the Trust Territory
of the Pacific Islands
Saipan, Marianas Islands 96950

Dear Mr. Horwood:

This refers to my letter of September 4, to Mr. Cralay, giving preliminary, and rather negative, reactions to S. R. No. 1 and the expectations you have concerning its implementation. In that letter I said that I would hope to obtain some Hill reactions, as well as other Departmental reactions. I have done the former, and write to report them. I have not rounded out people at either Defense or State, since I rather feel that the Congressional reactions overtake all others.

I shared with both Dick Witzer and Jim Noble my letter of September 6, and both indicated that they substantially concurred. Jim in turn showed me a letter he had drafted before he had seen mine, expressing similar sentiments. (Whether that letter would be signed, or whether it would be modified before being signed, he didn't then know.) Dick had not by that time received any House reactions, because he had too recently sought to elicit them, but he anticipated that they too would be unenthusiastic, particularly as to the proposed Honolulu hearings in January.

It seemed to all three of us that such hearings are the most troublesome aspect and that they ought, if at all possible, to be avoided at this juncture. We also understand that a total failure to implement the resolution could be troublesome too.

Another option, though, struck us all as presenting a route that seems relatively free of hazards and that might possibly be productive. Could not the Congress of Micronesia's study commission in fact study the options and make its report by next July, as the resolution (which we are glad to note is silent as to Honolulu hearings) requires, but do so in an unflamboyant way in Saipan? We would all hope that it would refrain from definitive recommendations as to status options, inasmuch as these would not then be wholly within its jurisdiction to define. But it might well be useful for the local commission to explore just what Commonwealth means, what did happen in the Cook Islands, etc.

I would personally welcome an opportunity to impart any information I have on these subjects, face to face with your commission. And I have little doubt that the State Department would want to participate too.

We will be anxious to learn how you think this matter might best be handled.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) Mrs. Ruth G. Van Cleave
Mrs. Ruth G. Van Cleave
Director

cc: Mr. Gumble
Mr. Witsky
Mr. Mangum
Mr. Craley

cc Bob Vaughan

VanCleave:emw
9/22/67