



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR
TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS
96950

100-160177
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November 29, 1967

PERSONAL/CONFIDENTIAL

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

Dear Mrs. Van Cleve:

Thank you for your letter of November 24 enclosing clippings from the Congressional Record of November 21 pertaining to the Peace Corps in Micronesia.

Anticipating that we may encounter further questions on this subject during our February hearings and probably during the Congressional visit here in January, I shall appreciate being supplied with a fairly detailed history of the background of the decision to send volunteers to Micronesia.

Inasmuch as I arrived here at about the same time as the Peace Corps, I was not a participant in the preliminary planning. I don't believe I shall have any serious problems related to the results of the PC involvement, but I do lack the facts regarding the events leading up to the decision to send volunteers out here.

In his letter to the Honolulu Advertiser several months ago, Mr. Goding reviewed part of this history. I assume his version is correct. However, I think the preentry (invasion) history should be filled out, and I'd welcome a report on just what happened step by step.

It has been my impression that PC/Micronesia was largely a State Department maneuver to "take over" the TT from Interior, because of State's sensitivity to UN criticism, WHO report, etc.

You will note on Page H15689 of the Congressional Record for November 21 Mr. Vaughn is quoted as saying:

"We were requested by the President of the United States, with the concurrence of Secretary Udall and Ambassador Goldberg, to send volunteers there specifically because the Department of Interior was not able to meet the needs of these people."

Ross Pritchard told me that the scope of the Peace Corps involvement was an experiment to determine what results could be achieved by a massive infusion of volunteers.

I am also quite certain that Ambassador Anderson and Joe Cisco had a bit to do with the preinvasion strategy, but that's just a guess.

Incidentally, I have given no circulation to my Vaughn letter other than the copy to the Secretary. I do not want to aggravate my relationships with the Peace Corps, but if there is further evidence that the Vaughn statement on health programs needs to be refuted, I'd have no objection to having my letter discreetly circulated inasmuch as Mr. Vaughn's reply offered no correction but only a weak apology. I'll leave that to your discretion.

I have just sent Vaughn another letter commending the Peace Corps for the excellent job they have been doing here on Saipan in organizing community youth clubs. You will be getting a copy.

Sincerely yours,



W. R. Nerwood
High Commissioner