

Mr. H. Heiman Craley, Jr.
Deputy High Commissioner of the
Trust Territory of the Pacific
Islands
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950

JAN 16 1968

Dear Mr. Craley:

I know that you're currently traveling about with the House Interior group, and thus that you'll not see, and surely not be able to respond to, this letter for some time. But two matters cause me to write.

First, I do hope that later this month the House group will be able to meet, as you've suggested is likely, with the Trust Territory's own political status commission. It would be our hope that a conversation between the two groups could ensue which would, among other things, provide some hints as to the U.S. Congress' attitude on this question, as well as, of course, the Micronesians'. Because this general issue is very much before us every day of the week, would you please undertake to write to me as full, as detailed, and as early an account of such meeting as is held, as your circumstances permit? The more you can tell us, the more helpful it will be from our standpoint, and indeed, I believe from both of our standpoints.

Secondly, you know I have hoped to come myself to Saipan to meet with the Micronesian Commission at a mutually convenient time. A few days ago State asked me whether it might send a representative out to Saipan this spring for the same purpose, and I said that we had foreseen inviting them to do so. I also said that we thought we would ask Defense to do the same, although we are in doubt as to whether Defense would choose to do so.

In any event, will you let me know when the Status Commission would find it convenient and helpful to have a State Department representative (probably Bill Glystoen), me, and possibly a Defense representative meet with them in Saipan? I would prefer not to leave Washington before mid-March, but almost any time thereafter would suit my schedule as I know it now.

I will welcome hearing from you on both of these subjects.

Sincerely yours,
(Sgd.) Mrs. Ruth G. Van Cleve

cc: Hicom

Mrs. Ruth G. Van Cleve
Director

RGVanCleve:ck
1/15/68