

March 18, 1968

Mr. Charles Leppert, Jr.  
Assistant Counsel  
Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Charlie:

During the hearings on March 14 a request was made for some indication of what we have been telling the UN Trusteeship Council about our plans for the political future of the Trust Territory. The Congressmen had in mind that we should compare what we have said in New York with the actual prospect and make sure that the two were not out of line.

Rather than try to answer this question, I think it best that we give you the most representative statement on this subject. In summing up before the Trusteeship Council on July 1, 1966, Ambassador Anderson said:

"Let us turn now in conclusion to the more general question of political development. In entering the Trusteeship agreement, my Government undertook to prepare the people of the Territory for self-government, Members of the Council have properly considered that the Congress of Micronesia marks important progress in this regard. The Congress has had one session and will soon begin its second one. Mr. Harwood has mentioned the gradual development of a sense of area identification, the 'Micronesian self', which surely is also a necessity of self-government. I believe that definite progress has been made toward the goal, perhaps more than we ourselves have been aware.

"Events, I believe, are moving us toward the need for a definite decision, within a reasonably short time, as to how and when the population of the Trust Territory shall exercise the right of choice we are obligated to provide them. These decisions of self-determination must be made by the Micronesian people themselves. But when these decisions are made, they will beyond question also reflect the persistent and constructive work of this Council."

Yours sincerely,

William H. Gleysteen  
Deputy Director  
Office of United Nations  
Political Affairs

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