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ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

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April 4, 1968

Mr. Ward P. Allen
Deputy Assistant Secretary
International Organization Affairs
American Embassy Canberra

Dear Ward:

I hope this letter catches you in Canberra as you emerge from the uncharted wilds of New Guinea. A member of the Liberian Mission in New York has already informed us of his understanding that you played a heroic role in saving the Liberian representative from drowning. I will be anxious to hear about this and other details of your visit.

The question of the future of the TTPI has been under active discussion in Congress since your departure. We have attended five days of executive hearings before the House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs and I myself spent a full day testifying before the Committee. I suggest therefore that you study carefully the enclosed memorandum to the Under Secretary covering my testimony as well as the contingency questions and answers which we have specifically prepared for your use. Although the memorandum contains many sensitive points which cannot be discussed with the Micronesians, I believe that the enclosed materials cover the full range of questions you may be asked. Unfortunately, confidential communication between the Department and the Trust Territory is almost impossible, and you should not take the classified materials along with you. However, as a convenience, the contingency questions and answers are unclassified except the one on access and can be taken with you.

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You will note the predominating view in the House Subcommittee was that the people of the TTPI did not feel ready -- and, in fact, were not ready to make an intelligent choice regarding the Territory's future. Since the Department has always been handicapped by the absence of our own first hand information on attitudes and developments in the Trust Territory, I hope you will do your best to assess the attitude of Micronesians, particularly on the timing of a plebiscite and on factors which might affect these attitudes.

I am also enclosing letters detailing Ruth Van Cleve's scheduled travel.

Sincerely yours,



Joseph J. Sisco

Enclosures:

1. Memorandum to the Under Secretary, March 21, 1968.
2. Basis for Sisco statement to Interior Subcommittee, March 15, 1968.
3. Contingency questions and answers for Allen.
4. Documents regarding Administration proposal.
5. Mrs. Van Cleve's schedule.

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