

Morgan

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Roger Flather, Director
PC Micronesia

David L. Grove, GC

Micronesia Lawyers' Program

Ann Morgan loaned me her copy of your May 3 memorandum to all District Directors on the above subject. I found it very interesting, particularly in light of the comments in the much-quoted Micronesia Evaluation to the effect that the Micronesia Lawyers program, which is described as the best in the Peace Corps world, nevertheless requires some direction.

A question which occurred to me in reading your memorandum is whether the time is ripe for one or more of the Volunteer lawyers to have a go, on a more or less full time basis, at a continuing institute (stationary or traveling) for Micronesian legal practitioners and officers. I assume there is a considerable need for more qualified Micronesians to fill various legal positions both within and without the Administration. Is there money for such an institute? Would the Administration be receptive to the idea? Are there enough Micronesians with suitable backgrounds to warrant one? Of course, these are questions which you, your staff, and the Volunteer Lawyers are better able to consider than I am.

The danger I see in your proposal is that the more time the Volunteer lawyers spend filling the Administration's need for legal manpower, the less time they will have available for training Micronesians to fill that need. Also the Administration will undoubtedly feel less pressure to move in that direction. I also fear that many of the Volunteer lawyers may come to be viewed by the Micronesians as having a one-sided identification with the "American" law formation and enforcement apparatus. (You will remember my infamous "not-sent" letter to Bob Burns on Judge Clifton's appointment.) I know that PC Micronesia walks a difficult line insofar as the sensibilities of the Administration in this area are concerned. I hope, however, that you can avoid offending those sensibilities without moving most of the Volunteer lawyers into "the Hill" syndrome.

I trust you understand that I raise this question with you, not in my capacity as a minor Peace Corps functionary but as a former Volunteer lawyer who believes that able and properly motivated lawyers can make a significant contribution to the economic and institutional development of areas like Micronesia. Hopefully, I will have a chance to talk with you about these and other matters when I come to Micronesia in June.

CC subj & read
DLG chron

Clearances: 22- 430663
GC:McCarthy (draft)
WAD: AMorgan

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