

July 10, 1968

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing in my capacity as President of the United Nations Trusteeship Council to furnish some comments concerning the United States presentation on the Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands at the recently completed 35th Session of the UN Trusteeship Council. As you know, I feel that we should be more conscious than we have been in the past of our responsibilities to the United Nations in connection with the TTPI, especially since we are now looking to the day when we will be asking the UN's approval for dissolution of Trusteeship tie, following a plebiscite.

On the whole, I think we did very well at this Session, emerging with a report which was as favorable as last year's and perhaps even a bit better (I personally feel that it was less critical than we deserved). Much credit should go to Commissioner Norwood, whose presentation was very effective. He and Mr. Craley had ample information at their fingertips, and were eventually able to cover all the points of interest to the delegates. Mr. Norwood's manner of presentation is as important as the content. He leaves no one in doubt as to his serious and whole-hearted dedication to the cause of maximizing the slim resources available to improve the welfare of the Micronesians. His presentation is characterized by modesty and objectivity, with no effort to exaggerate our achievements in the TTPI. He

The Honorable
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is ready, where appropriate, to admit that much remains to be done, at the same time evidencing impressively his strong personal desire to get on with the job. This frank and objective "soft sell" is, I believe, much the best approach. It often disarms our Soviet colleagues, whose criticism this year was (for a variety of reasons) remarkably muted. More important, our evident candor is appreciated by the various Western delegations around the table, and when writing the Council's report they give full weight to whatever (modest) achievements we claim. The result is, I believe, more favorable treatment than we would get with a more boastful presentation.

I have one further comment, of a procedural nature but nevertheless important. I strongly recommend that in future years the Commissioner's opening statement be written in such a way as to be responsive to the Trusteeship Council's special interests, conclusions, and recommendations, as expressed at the previous Session. It should be prepared in advance, making full use of the Saipan staff, to record faithfully whatever steps have been taken in the year under review relative to the conclusions and recommendations in the various sections of the last annual Trusteeship Council report on the TTPI (these are sent to the Commissioner following publication). This is not a difficult task inherently, since there are few, if any, recommendations with which the United States basically disagrees. There is always, of course, the question of priority, and where little or no action has been taken on a Council recommendation because we believe the project deserves a low priority, we should not hesitate to say so (this is, in fact, the case with Commissioner Morwood's presentations). At the same time, it is essential for us, in this opening statement, to claim credit for whatever modest practical steps have been taken, not only in order to make a good case but also because to ignore the Council's previous conclusions and recommendations suggests indifference to its role.

This year the Commissioner eventually supplied all the desired information concerning the situation in the various fields of major interest to the Council, and supplied it well. However, much of it was not in his opening statement but, instead, had to be drawn out in questioning, inasmuch as his opening statement was very brief and not pointed at last year's TC report. Since the Council traditionally depends almost entirely on the opening statement for highlights on which to base its conclusions and recommendations, we might have emerged with an unnecessarily unfavorable report had it not been for some last minute juggling and arguing by U.S. Mission staff members.

The Department of State of course has a chance to review the speech in its final version and to make suggestions. However, the information which I am suggesting for inclusion (e.g., concrete details concerning recent steps to expedite the processing of land claims, or concerning the training of Micronesians to fill certain higher staff vacancies) is not available in the Department of State and must come from Interior or the field.

A lengthy and relevant statement of this sort would improve our overall presentation. However, having made this specific recommendation, I would not wish to conclude my letter without once again expressing my admiration for the manner in which Commissioner Norwood conducts himself in the Council, and the credit which he does to our case at the UN. I know that my admiration for the job he is doing on Saipan with limited available resources is shared by a number of others on the Council, who have been very open in expressing this view.

Sincerely yours,

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United States Representative on the
United Nations Trusteeship Council

cc: Commissioner Norwood
USUN - Mr. Johnson
IO/UNP - Mr. McHenry

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