

EXECUTIVE

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August 5, 1968

Dear Mr. Fox:

Thank you for your letter of July 23, 1968. I'm sorry that business here, and my absence from Washington, prevented our getting together.

You are correct in your understanding that the Senate has passed a bill to create a political status commission for the Trust Territory, but that the House has not yet acted. The House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs has heard a presentation in support of the bill but has taken no action as yet. It is always a mistake to attempt to prejudge Congressional action, but as the session draws to a close the outlook appears less optimistic.

With respect to your proposals for economic development, a trip to Saipan would be appropriate. The High Commissioner is charged with the responsibility for promoting the use of the territory's resources and must make the evaluation of any such outside proposal. I would hope that you could present to him some specific proposals which can be subject to analysis and evaluation. Such specific proposals, I know, would be welcomed.

Sincerely,

Harry C. McPherson, Jr.
Special Counsel to the President

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