



DEPARTMENT OF  
POLITICAL SCIENCE

TUFTS UNIVERSITY

MEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS 02155

August 6, 1968

Mrs. Ruth G. Van Cleve  
Director, Office of Territories  
Room 6514, Department of the Interior  
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Ruth:

Your letter of July 24th crediting me with paternity respecting the new interdepartmental consultative committee on the Trust Territory was most thoughtful and gracious. This development pleases me very much indeed for I am sure that in your good hands the Committee will be a useful political and educational device. It may mean some extra work and sometimes a tiresome business to sustain, but if it serves to avoid stomach ulcers and places the kibosh on the kind of nonsense proposed by Joe Sisco a while back, it will be most worthwhile.

Harvey Melniker has been away from here since the end of the Spring Semester and is now back collating and preparing his report in final form for mailing. This reaching out to the high school students has been an exciting and rewarding enterprise for him and a sobering experience for me. I've prepared him as well as myself for some brickbats. Nonetheless, I believe he deserves good marks for a sustained and conscientious job and follow-through on his reporting obligations to those who have cooperated with him so nicely. His report will be in the mail shortly.

Such concentration of effort on one student alone must be at the expense of many others. We hear so much talk these days about the ideal -- venturesome individual study and creative project work. The over-worked phrase is "doing something relevant." Obviously such activity can be carried on only with a great increase in faculty and some project money; the costs add up enormously if such activity is to be for more than a very few. At this moment I am thinking of you in your South Hadley capacity, rather than Washington role. And I'll end by showing how ambivalent I can be re special projects; I shall rack my brain for good project suggestions upon which your Committee might chew.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely,

Robert R. Robbins  
Chairman

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