

JOURNAL

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"These are the things you shall do: speak the truth to one another; render in your gate judgments that are true and make for peace." --Zecharia

EDITORIAL PAGE

PEACE CORPS AND THE TRUST TERRITORY

The Journal learned recently of a communication from High Commissioner William P. Norwood concerning politics and the Peace Corps. Below are some excerpts:

....I have attempted....to try to stress the importance of strong, unequivocal Peace Corps support for the goals and efforts of the Trust Territory Administration. The political objective supported by the Departments of State, Defense and Interior is the formation of some form of continued affiliation with the United States. I have concluded reluctantly that I have been too tolerant in accommodating the continued presence of Peace Corps Volunteers who deliberately, openly and callously attempt to disassociate themselves from the Trust Territory Administration, its programs and goals. I feel that as far as this question of political debate is concerned, the Peace Corps has so far shown little recognition of its responsibilities to align itself and its Volunteers with basic objectives of the Trust Territory government.

By now, we are sufficiently jaded to talk of Micronesia's pre-determined future to be surprised at Mr. Norwood's statement of a "continued affiliation" with the U.S. It does, however, point up that such thinking exists not only in Washington but is shared as well. Indeed, the very purpose of the T.T. Administration seems to be upholding that "political objective" of State, Defense and Interior.

It is ironic, then, that Mr. Norwood is concerned about Peace Corps Volunteers who are not supporting these political objectives, while at the same time exhorting them to remain neutral.

Volunteer support of the T.T., he says, should be "strong and unequivocal." Does this mean Volunteers should pay unquestioning allegiance to such T.T. policies as the unjust Micronesian Title and Pay Plan? To the confiscation of land for

military purposes? To the tacit approval of segregated military facilities? To the veto of important Congress of Micronesia legislation?

If, as Mr. Norwood insists, Volunteers supported such "goals and efforts," the Peace Corps would quickly lose its value to Micronesians. If such were the case, Peace Corps would become little more than a civilian army, quietly coercing Micronesians into submitting their lands and future for purposes of the United States.

Peace Corps in the Trust Territory is in the difficult position of owing allegiance to two governments. Officially, Mr. Norwood contends (correctly) that the Volunteer's allegiance lies to the Administration--the U.S. In actuality, of course, this is not the case, as Mr. Norwood realizes. Indeed, if the official allegiance were enforced, we think a large number of Volunteers would resign. This is not to suggest their loyalty is in question. It does suggest that Volunteer sympathy lies overwhelmingly with Micronesians and in a conflicting situation, the Volunteer will side with them. This is, indeed, the basic tenet of Peace Corps--sympathy with the people--applied to the unique system of government in Micronesia.

As for the use of the word "callous" in describing Volunteer criticism of the T.T., we can think of nothing more callous than the disregard of Micronesians' demands to control their own destiny.

Shortly after the Peace Corps Volunteers on Kili submitted the U.N. petition urging the return of Bikini, they told an interviewer, "We felt we had no choice but to get involved."

They may well have spoken for a great number of Volunteers in Micronesia.

* * *

(The following speech was given by U.N. Trusteeship Council President, Ambassador Eugenie Anderson, to the people of the trust territories.)

"It is a great pleasure to convey my warmest regards and heartfelt best wishes to the Peoples and Governments of New Guinea and the Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands on this, the anniversary of the founding of the United Nations.

"The United Nations Trusteeship Council usually receives reports about the TTPI and New Guinea from Visiting Missions and from the states which are responsible for the administration of the Trust Territories. It seems appropriate on this occasion to reverse the order--to report to you, the people of New Guinea and the TTPI, about the activities and hopes of the Council in regard to your homelands.

"During the past two years, the Council heard reports of Visiting Missions to both New Guinea and TTPI. Early this year a Mission composed of officials designated by the Governments of France, Liberia, New Zealand and the United States spent two months (Continued on P. 4)