



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

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January 16, 1969

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

Dear Mrs. Van Cleve:

Thank you for your letter of December 31, 1968 setting forth some of the background of the land acquisition question in the TTPI and stating your understanding of the relationship of the Trusteeship Agreement to this whole question. We have no quarrel with the analysis which you have presented in the first paragraph of the third page of your letter and we now seem to be in full agreement both on the meaning of the Agreement and the need to exclude it from this issue.

Concerning the likelihood that the High Commissioner will be faced by a similar piece of legislation again this year and will presumably feel forced once again to veto it, we hope that every effort will be made to reach some form of compromise solution to accommodate Micronesian views. Although the High Commissioner has good reasons for vetoing such legislation, the problem of land acquisition appears to be getting out of proportion and could prejudice the broader question of the future of the TTPI. With the submission of Resolution No. 45 to the United Nations and the newspaper stories of the student protests in Honolulu, we can be certain this issue will be raised at the Trusteeship Council and quite possibly in this year's General Assembly as well.

We, of course, realize that there are problems involved in any compromise that might be acceptable and that agreeing, for example, to notify the Congress of Micronesia of cases of land acquisition could lead to numerous problems in the future. But we question whether such new problems could be greater

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than the one that exists now and it would seem useful for the High Commissioner to continue to attempt to reach some accommodation with the Congress. Perhaps Mr. Heine in his new position could succeed where it was not possible before. Certainly if he could achieve some such compromise, it would make his transfer appear much more justified to skeptical observers.

Whatever course is finally followed on this difficult subject, I do appreciate your offer to keep us informed and to consult us on any veto action.

Sincerely yours,

Elizabeth Ann Brown
Elizabeth Ann Brown
Director
Office of United Nations
Political Affairs

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