

PEACE CORPS / MICRONESIA

TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

Headquarters
P. O. Box 393
Saipan, Mariana Islands
96959

April 11, 1969

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Joseph Screen, Acting High Commissioner
Trust Territory Headquarters

FROM: Roger Flather, Director
Peace Corps/Micronesia

SUBJECT: Peace Corps Coordination

REF: 1. Memo of Agreement between High Commissioner and Director, PC/W.
2. Congress of Micronesia Joint Resolution #21.

The above mentioned documents, read in the context of three years of Peace Corps service in Micronesia, prompt the following comments and a proposal which we respectfully submit for your consideration and implementation.

As a preface, however, let it be spread on the minutes that Peace Corps has no programs to offer, but we do have criteria which must be met before programming support can be offered from Peace Corps. In the past this subtlety has been lost or confused and has necessitated an undue amount of time in communicating and easing the tension surrounding such misunderstanding. This also prompts the offering of this proposal by which a simpler structure will capture the essence of both the Memorandum of Agreement and the Joint Resolution #21 of the Congress of Micronesia.

The High Commissioner has within his prerogative the overseeing of the total U. S. effort within Micronesia. Peace Corps is one resource at his command to implement such programming. However, Peace Corps also has, by act of Congress, certain responsibilities to work with the host country nationals in their program priorities. In Micronesia, however, the host country national is distinct from the host country government (American administration). This paradox can be relieved if not resolved, we think, by this proposal, which is:

The creation of a Peace Corps Coordinating Commission, recognized by and delegated with responsibility for overseeing, reviewing, evaluating, and proposing Peace Corps operations within Micronesia. Such a commission would act for the High Commissioner through his delegates who would also serve with appointed members from both the House and Senate of the Congress of Micronesia. The Peace Corps Director, or his designate, would serve ex officio.

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This Commission would be the reporting body for Peace Corps to both the High Commissioner and the Congress. By this media a fuller understanding of Peace Corps capabilities and efforts would be seen within the fuller developmental programs of the Congress and the Trust Territory Administration. This Commission would also assign priority to volunteer placements and, according to Peace Corps, Congress of Micronesia, and TT criteria, would mediate requests from the various program areas.

We have reviewed this proposal informally with members of the Congress of Micronesia and would be most eager to discuss further with you, or your representative, the whole range of our services.