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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR
TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMERCIAL
CABLE ADDRESS
HICOTT SAIPAN

Copy sent to
W. J. Hickel

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

August 27, 1969

The Honorable Walter J. Hickel
Secretary of the Interior
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C.

Dear Wally:

Your letter of August 9 caught up with me while I was in the Marshalls concluding our tour of the six districts of Micronesia. Your comments on the progress of our program here are much appreciated.

I was happy to hear that everyone seemed to agree with my impression that the meeting on Guam with President Nixon had gone very well, and I agree with you that this was the most important part of the mission. I personally felt no offense at the receiving line arrangements and had called you only because of Admiral Cole's strong desire that I do so. Actually, the way that it worked out, the President spent as much time visiting with me and my family as with anyone in the official receiving line.

Our trip through the districts was highly successful and reached several areas where no High Commissioner had visited before. I feel now that some of the conditions in our Trust Territory just absolutely defy description and must be experienced to be really understood. I am sure you will see what I mean and will agree with me after your visit to some of the other districts in November.

Our schedule was a very busy one and in each district I was able to meet with the traditional leaders, the elected representatives, the Distad and his staff, and representatives of the business community. My family also visited a number of outlying villages some distance from the population centers and were warmly received in each instance, along with getting a better insight into the other side of life in Micronesia

- 2 -

I am in complete agreement with you that responsive and accurate communications are of utmost importance in the tremendous undertaking in which we are involved and will certainly do better from this end of the line in the future to maintain a complete flow of information. Our new telephone system, which is now installed but is still undergoing final testing, should help a great deal. We will also immediately institute your suggestion of making sure that your office is on the distribution list for news releases and significant communications concerning TTPI Government policy. Also, rest assured that we will continue to give Edgar Kaiser complete support and cooperation as your personal representative whenever he visits the Trust Territory.

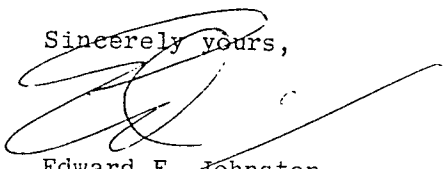
Within the next few days I will send you a more complete report on my trip and a preliminary report on our proposal for reorganization along the lines suggested by the Congress of Micronesia.

As the Congress nears its close, I feel that our relations, for the most part, have been excellent and, although we are sweating out the final arrangements for a group to go to Washington, I feel that this, too, will work out well if we do not apply too much external pressure.

Thanks, again, for taking the time to convey your thoughts to me.

Clare joins me in best personal regards to you and Ermalee.

Sincerely yours,



Edward E. Johnston
High Commissioner