

August 9, 1969

Dear Ed:

I was very pleased to hear that the meeting between you and the leadership of the Congress of Micronesia went so well on Guam. As you know, both the President and the other Cabinet officers, besides myself, involved in Micronesia are extremely interested in this problem. It is unfortunate that you could not have been in the receiving line at Guam, but it was by far more important that the meeting go well and we were all pleased that it did so.

ourselves and that we continue to move rapidly. As is concerned I thought it might be useful, at this time, to review our progress so far and indicate how I think we should move from this point. First of all, let me say that I certainly sympathize with your position. It is difficult enough to take over the reins of a Government, but to have a program such as we are involved in going on at the same time requires the combined effort of all those involved.

Your progress on placing more Micronesians in government and launching our program of action have been excellent. While we still have a long way to go to realize our goal of permanent political association with the United States, we are proceeding on that program and, in general, I am pleased. In order to assure a successful completion of that program I believe we must accelerate our programs for pay equalization, land tenure and acquisition and economic development.

High Commissioner of the Trust Territory

In order to carry out successfully such a difficult and complex program in such a short period, responsive and accurate communications are of the utmost importance. In this area we have had some difficulty. For better or for worse, as far as I am concerned the Trust Territory is no longer 8,000 miles away from my office but just outside the door.

JOHN S. EDI, EDWARD E. (KOF.)

Accordingly, it will be helpful if my office is on the distribution of all of your news releases and all of your significant DISTAD communications regarding over-all TTPI Government policy. This is to give me information in my dealings with other Cabinet officers and on the Hill.

Due to the complexities of this department, and my responsibilities as Secretary of the Interior, other than the Trust Territory, I have had to designate someone in my office who could spend more time here and there than myself. As you know, Edgar Kaiser has been doing this for me. He is acting as my personal representative on this matter. Therefore, your giving him all the support you can while he is in the Trust Territory will be appreciated.

It is imperative to realize the goals established by the President and ourselves and that we continue to move rapidly. He is concerned that our total efforts be coordinated and that the goals set for the Micronesians are accomplished. Time is of the essence and this must remain uppermost in our minds. Ed, whatever I can do to expedite the successful completion of this program I will do.

Until I see you again, I remain,

Sincerely,

(sgd) Wally

Walter J. Hickel  
Secretary of the Interior

Honorable Edward E. Johnston  
High Commissioner of the Trust Territory  
of the Pacific Islands  
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950

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cc: Tom Stockton