

Trust Territories  
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Micronesian  
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Loren C. Cox

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Malvin J. Mirkin

Freedman and Lawrence

The Freedman article was sent to the Washington Post approximately three weeks ago. It doesn't seem he is having much luck in having it published probably because it is overly specific.

According to Bruce Tevernor, Byrne's Deputy, the quotes attributed to Byrnes on the bottom of page 5 are merely Freedman's impressions gathered from various snatches of conversation with Byrnes and there is no documentation to support them.

Freedman is not an irregular correspondent with Peace Corps officials. He writes the Country Director regularly and occasionally sends copies to Washington. I am also attaching his latest communique. According to it his idea of a leader would be satisfied by a para-mutual tote board -- something that merely quotes statistics. I do not think that is what is expected by Peace Corps of its administrative staff nor do I think Jim Byrnes would be flattered by Freedman's analysis of him.

When I was in Palau there was a Volunteer meeting at Byrne's house. Around 17 Volunteers were there; Freedman foremost among them. He sought a commitment from me that there would be no more programs in Palau. He challenged every reason I gave for declining the offer. I finally told him that all he could demand was a hearing, not an agreement, that Peace Corps was a Volunteer organization and that it was unfair to insist on an institutional declaration of failure in order for him and the other Volunteers to vindicate their own personal positions.

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This morning I met with Orrie Lewis, Jr., Deputy to Assistant Secretary of Interior Roesch. He was quite agreeable to conducting a portion of the Volunteer Lawyer training over at Interior. Until I met with him I think Interior had planned on turning the entire matter over to a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer who would there who would basically have conducted a two week "show and tell" program involving himself and other returned Volunteers.

To the mutual satisfaction of both Mr. Lewis and myself the concept has been substantially expanded to include an entire briefing on Interior's involvement in the administration of the Trust Territory, including history, policy, and budgetary problems and constraints. There will also be a bill drafting segment. If it all goes well, the Volunteers who come out of this program will go into country far better equipped to immediately begin their assigned tasks in a professional manner than any of their predecessors.

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