

Lawyers

To: *Wan/Joe / MEL*

March 17, 1970

Dana:

Legal Education Proposal for Micronesia

It is indeed encouraging that the Chief Justice of Micronesia has submitted a request for Peace Corps Volunteers in the area of legal education. With his support, the Volunteers ought to be able to make a lasting contribution to the judicial structure in the Trust Territory.

My initial questions - and it is a ~~quies~~ question, not a criticism - is whether older retired senior legal personnel are the most appropriate resource to request. I suppose Justice Schoolcraft is remembering the service of Judge Clifton, and perhaps also the young, more activist lawyers in requested retired judges and law professors. However, I wonder if these people are willing to go out to the district centers and if they can adjust their level of expertise to the needs of the Micronesian districts. In order to fairly judge the skill and experiential needs of the Micronesian courts, it would be necessary to have a better and more thorough understanding of what goes on now. Mel could illuminate this based on his observations.

This program calls for on-the-job training, with the Volunteer responsible for setting up classes (perhaps this is an argument for older and more experienced people). The PCVs will also "assist" the judges and law clerks, and I should think the line between "assist" and "do it yourself" may be thin indeed.

It is certainly worth the most careful consideration. I believe we need to know more about the job. If we were to go with this, it would certainly call for a special recruiting campaign, which Tom Houser might be willing to help with.

*If we can get 2 like those I passed to Mel, they could do both legislative & this, etc.*

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