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Ron - RS
Stock for direct reply
Please reply, we have fairly well articulated positions on this -
Lowell
Ans'd 10/23/70
Hon: RFS file
5455 Woodenhawk Circle
Columbia, Md. 21043
23 September 1970

Honorable John R. Stevenson
Legal Adviser
Department of State
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Stevenson:

As one long interested in international organization and in U.S. policies with respect to the Pacific in general and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands in particular, I have recently noted both (1) the Report of the Political Status Delegation of the Congress of Micronesia and (2) the press release of Assistant Secretary of the Interior Harrison Loesch.

Nowhere in the report referred to above was any indication given with respect to the American view of the UN role in trusteeship termination in the case of Micronesia. This lacuna is the more astonishing for the Report's having presented the American commonwealth proposal at some length and for its having even discussed the UN role in termination. That the press release did address the subject I acknowledge, but the sentence used is ambiguous. Secretary Loesch's release stated that "the President would take steps to terminate the trusteeship with the United Nations" This wording could mean either (1) that the President would take the steps unilaterally (i.e., that it is the "status" that is "with the United Nations," not the steps) or, alternatively, (2) that the President would take steps with the United Nations to terminate the status.

- I should deeply appreciate a clarification of the above remark. Specifically,
- (1) Is it the opinion of the United States Government that the United Nations must assent to termination of the trusteeship agreement for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands in order for such termination to be effective?
 - (2) Is it the opinion of the United States Government that the Security Council itself must assent to the termination of the trusteeship agreement?
 - (3) If the answer to the second query is in the affirmative, should such a subject be considered a substantive matter in the Security Council?

I shall be grateful to you for your views on this matter.

Sincerely,

R. D. McLaurin
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