

PO. 5-14  
Legal Services

February 1, 1971

MEMORANDUM

TO: Phillip D. Waddington  
Regional Director/EAP  
PC/Washington

FROM: Laurence A. Johnson  
Director  
PC/Micronesia

SUBJECT: Lawyers for Spring

Bob Buffin's memo of December 30 to EAP OTO's on Fill Rates and Priority Rankings said " . . . no one, including myself, has been able to demonstrate that the priority ratings do, in fact, make a difference in the fill rates."

We would like to relate this problem to the Spring matrix, which we are pleased to see is shaping up with fewer shortfalls than originally anticipated.

In terms of priority for Micronesia, we want to affirm the vital nature of Peace Corps lawyers in this Territory. Despite earlier frictions, the reinstatement of the lawyer program was clear indication of its importance. Since then, the Congress of Micronesia and the District Legislatures have gained in stature and prestige. They are key to the political future of the islands. Both Chief Justice Burnett and Public Defender Phil Evans (who died suddenly and tragically last week) have repeatedly stressed the superior quality of Peace Corps lawyers and their heavy contribution to the legislative process in the Trust Territory. OEO lawyers will arrive in a few districts sometime this year, but their function will be in the private sector. Peace Corps is providing within the Trust Territory, a highly necessary adjunct to the United States effort to find a rational and mutually satisfactory permanent arrangement for the trust.

Knowing that you are working to get the lawyers now on individual placement status into the regular Spring training, we wanted to send this note to reinforce our concern in the search for lawyers, and to urge that special efforts be undertaken. The lawyer program continues to be a striking success. We would hate to lose momentum.

cc: C. Shorter  
D. Rodgers

22  
16 - 430069