

September 23, 1971

The Honorable Harold W. Burnett  
Chief Justice  
High Court of the Trust Territory of the  
Pacific Islands  
Saipan,  
Mariana Islands 96950

Dear Chief Justice Burnett:

In Larry Johnson's absence (he is in Yap this week), I am responding to your letter of September 21, 1971, concerning the assignment of an additional Peace Corps Volunteer lawyer to Ponape.

As you mentioned in your letter, the legal training program in Ponape has been largely a Peace Corps activity conducted by PCV Fred Ramp. We feel, as you and Fred do, that the program is important and have been making efforts for some months to recruit an additional Peace Corps lawyer for assignment to Ponape to work with Fred in the training program and legislative areas of responsibility. A lawyer applicant was recently identified and issued an invitation to join the Peace Corps for the position in Ponape. We hoped, and had reasons to believe, that he would accept the invitation.

On September 15, 1971 we received a cable from Peace Corps/Washington indicating that the applicant had declined the invitation. A follow-up letter stated that the reason he had declined the invitation was due to the serious health problems of two elderly members of his family.

Efforts are still being made to recruit another lawyer for Ponape. As you know, this is an extremely difficult task due, in part, to the relative low percentage of lawyers interested in Peace Corps Volunteer service.

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We certainly appreciate your personal interest and involvement in the legal training program in Ponape, and assure you that the Peace Corps will do all it can to obtain an additional lawyer for the district.

Sincerely,

Tom Warren  
Deputy Director  
PC/Micronesia

cc: B. Hagler, Dist. Dir., PC/Ponape  
F. Ramp, PCV Lawyer, Ponape  
C. Shorter, Desk Officer, PC/Washington

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