

**PEACE CORPS / MICRONESIA**  
TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

PEACE CORPS/MICRONESIA  
Ponape District  
Ponape 96941  
Eastern Caroline Islands

RMH:cp  
PO-1.14  
PO-5.14

MEMORANDUM

5 October 1971

TO : Charles B. Shorter  
Micronesia Desk Officer/EAP  
ACTION, Washington

FROM : Roger M. Hagler, DB  
PC/Ponape

SUBJECT : IP Lawyer for Ponape

Reference: Attached

Our ~~records~~ <sup>records</sup> here for the IP lawyer are acute. Attached is Fred Ramp's account of the latest developments in his situation. Fred's analysis is precisely as I see it. The sooner we can get someone in to take over the other job the better. Please keep us posted.

Attachment: A/S

cc: Larry Johnson, CD, w/attachment  
Ed Pike, PO, w/attachment

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cc: [unclear]  
[unclear]  
[unclear]  
[unclear]

c/o Peace Corps  
Kolonis, Ponape  
October 3, 1971

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The Honorable Itor Harris  
Speaker  
Ponape District Legislature  
Kolonis, Ponape

Dear Mr. Speaker:

As you are aware, I have a problem regarding the legal function I perform here in Ponape. That function revolves around three categories of activities: work with the District Legislature and the committees and boards which are in one way or another related to the Legislature; work with the legal training program for the Judiciary; and work with the Congress of Micronesia during its annual regular session. The problem involves the fact that the legal training program is nearly a full time job and work with the District Legislature has become a full time job in the last six months. Work with the Congress, on the other hand, is of relatively short duration and occurs only once each year and therefore could be done in conjunction with either of the other two activities. The fact is that all three activities cannot be performed competently by any one person. This fact has been amply proven in the last six or eight months. As my work with the Legislature and related committees and boards increased, the quality of my work with the legal training program decreased, and along with that the morale of the students and the effectiveness of the training declined. I have reached the unavoidable conclusion that I must either discontinue working for the Legislature or discontinue the legal training program. There is no other way.

I think there were two main factors which led to my permitting myself to get into this dilemma. First of all, during my first six months here on Ponape, I was used very little by the Legislature and I mistakenly assumed that working with the Legislature would continue to take very

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little of my time. As a result, I began looking around for other things to do and in the course of that search I started the legal training program along with Phil Evans, the former American Public Defender. The second and more important factor was the death of Phil last January. Before then, the training program was a part-time venture. Since then, it has become full time.

The training program, I believe, has good potential for both Ponape and the Trust Territory. This is the first time that extensive formal legal training has been offered in the Trust Territory. As you are aware, the Trust Territory is in dire need of its own trained legal personnel. That conclusion is dramatically emphasized by the fact that the Congress and district legislatures must rely on American Peace Corps volunteers for legal services. Consideration is now being given to starting similar training programs in two other districts, Palau and Truk. The Community College of Micronesia has asked us to associate with them and will give credit for the courses and offer a certificate. The Chief Justice of the High Court is sponsoring the training and has agreed to give graduates of the program due recognition. The Legislature could even directly benefit from the program if at some time in the future it chose to hire one of the graduates of the program as its legal advisor. The program had good momentum going until the last session of the Legislature; during and after which it began steadily declining. It is at a critical stage now. If it is to succeed, the momentum must be reacquired, which will require my full time efforts.

The Legislature, on the other hand, is not dependent upon the aid of a lawyer, particularly between sessions. The only truly legal work which I have performed for the Legislature is drafting some bills each session and dealing with an occasional legal problem. The rest of it, drafting resolutions, writing reports and letters, and dealing with political issues, could all be done as well without me.

My conclusion is that I could be most productive working with the training program full time. I therefore ask that I be released from all of my duties with the Legislature after the end of this Regular Session. Peace Corps is attempting to recruit another lawyer now for Ponape District and there is every reason to believe that one will be here soon, certainly before the next Regular Session. If for some reason Ponape does not get another Peace Corps lawyer before the next session, I of course would work that session myself or arrange for another lawyer to come here for it.

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My association with the Legislature has been good, particularly in the last six or eight months, and that makes this decision an extremely difficult one. I wish there was some action I could take which would satisfy my obligations both to the Legislature and to the students in the training program at the same time---but there is not.

Sincerely,

Fredrick L. Ramp

- cc: Honorable Kasiano Joseph, Vice-Speaker
- Harold W. Burnett, Chief Justice
- ✓ Roger Hagler, Director, Peace Corps/Ponape
- Ambilos Ieshi
- Ioanes Kanichy
- Joe Phillip
- Yaswo Johnson
- Miguel Marquez
- John Edmund

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