



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
Silver Spring, Md. 20910

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September 22, 1972

Reply to  
Attn of: Wx3

Mr. Adrian L. de Graffenried  
Legal Advisor for the Office  
for Micronesian Status Negotiations  
United States Department of the Interior  
Office of the Secretary  
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Mr. de Graffenried:

This is in response to your letter of August 29, 1972, inquiring about the operations of the National Weather Service in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands after the future political status of the Islands has been agreed upon.

Mr. Hagemeyer has just returned from an extensive trip throughout the Trust Territory that included discussions with the High Commissioner's staff in Saipan.

The subject of National Weather Service operations in the Trust Territory after the settlement of the political status was a question that was raised on a number of occasions in Saipan and in the districts. His general response was that we could foresee nothing at this time which would cause us to change our current methods of operation.

As you may be aware, the basic reasons for our operations in the Trust Territory are not only those of service to the individual islands but are also requirements for data to support our commitments for international aviation and to support our other forecasting activities elsewhere in the world. We cannot foresee any change in our requirements for observations in the area as a result of the change in status of the Islands. We would expect, therefore, initially to continue our operations in the Trust Territory in much the same manner as they are done today. Cooperative arrangements can then be developed to permit the new government to assume the support of our activities on a phased basis. The provision of forecast services other than typhoon forecasts and warnings will have to be subject to special arrangements.

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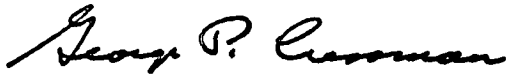
To answer your specific questions:

(1) Under the considerations discussed previously it is feasible to continue to provide services to all of the districts of the Trust Territory except the Marianas.

(2) The projected annual cost (current cost) of our services is about \$1.1 million and we consider this to be the minimum level necessary to maintain the viability of the weather service in Micronesia. The new government does not have to assume the complete support and operation of our service at one time. We could mutually identify increments that would be much less than the total cost. They could initially, for example, assume the cost of communications for which we now pay the Government of the Trust Territory \$100,000 a year.

I hope that our comments are useful to you in the negotiations. Should you have any future questions, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,



George P. Cressman  
Director, National Weather Service

cc: WFP

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