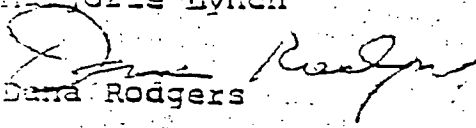


Memorandum

TO : Marjorie Lynch

DATE: June 21, 1974

FROM : Dana Rodgers 

SUBJECT: ACTION in the Mariana Islands

SUMMARY

The Mariana District of Micronesia is to become a Commonwealth within the United States by the end of FY 1975. ACTION/IO, through Dirk Ballendorf, P&T Chief for the MANEAP Region, met with me to suggest that DO begin informal discussions and planning regarding a continued ACTION presence in the Marianas as Peace Corps Volunteers are phased out. This memo is to brief you and to suggest that Chuck Goady be informally advised of this situation so the Marianas can be taken into account in his planning for FY 1975 and especially FY 1976.

BACKGROUND

Micronesia is administered by the Department of Interior under a United Nations Trust Territory arrangement. Discussions regarding the political future of Micronesia have been going on for several years. The Mariana Islands, one of the six districts of Micronesia, have opted for splitting off from the rest of the Trusteeship and joining the United States as a Trusteeship on the Puerto Rico model. This is a natural development as the Marianas surround the U.S. possession of Guam and also since there is a plan to build a large SAC base on the Mariana Island of Tinian. This decision has received legal clearance and awaits a final political move expected by June 1975. Meanwhile, a transitional government is being established and the Interior Department plans to move its Trust Territory headquarters off Saipan.

RELEVANCE TO ACTION

Peace Corps Volunteers have been working in Micronesia since 1966. The PC office is now in the Marianas. Anticipating the change of political status, PC has reduced its volunteer presence in the Marianas down to 2 volunteers and will move its Micronesia office elsewhere.

Mr. Ballendorf wanted to alert DO to start thinking ahead to what role our programs could play in the Marianas. I told him I would brief you and would, if you agree, advise Chuck Goady. While any decision to involve DO in the Marianas would require GC clearance and top management decisions, I am convinced we have authority to go there now (OEO has been in Micronesia for years) and I am also convinced DO has the resources to respond to the needs of Marianas better than Peace Corps, especially through variants of CCR and ACTION Cities, as well as Mini-Grants, VISTA and UYA.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

- Informally advise Goady. He already plans to move back into Guam and can make more sensible plans for that place if the Marianas are included in the equation.
- Check out with Craw what his thinking is, and also with Slevin. I can talk with Slevin if you like.
- Ultimately, a working group from DO and IO, with Goady, Hawaii State Director Mike Gale and Ed Slevin and his Micronesia Country Director as key people should work out a phased plan for DO entry into the Marianas.

Note: All this is informal advance warning at this point. I have been to the Marianas and am reasonably familiar with most of the program, political and other variables.

IV
✓ 76