



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

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Dear Mr. White:

Thank you for your letter of December 3, 1973, with respect to the proposal that your organization's method of employing Micronesians at NOAA National Weather Stations in the Trust Territory be changed.

The proposal was discussed briefly with High Commissioner Edward E. Johnston during a recent visit to Washington and also with Deputy High Commissioner Peter T. Coleman who was here last month. The High Commissioner's initial reaction was favorable.

The important point is the continuance of the U.S. Weather observation facilities in the Trust Territory and, as your letter notes, this the NOAA would continue to provide. Under these circumstances, there would not seem to be any serious difficulties in turning over the responsibilities for hiring and paying the Micronesians currently in your employ to the Trust Territory Government, which would in turn be reimbursed.

We have no objections to your Pacific Regional Headquarters in Honolulu exploring the matter further with the High Commissioner.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd) Stanley S. Carpenter

Stanley S. Carpenter
Director of Territorial Affairs

Mr. Robert M. White
Administrator
U. S. Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration
6001 Executive Boulevard
Rockville, Maryland 20852

cc: Secy's File
HCom Johnston, TTPI, w/cy of inc. corres.
/ J.M. Wilson OMSN
J. Berg, DOTA
JBERG: bds 1/8/74

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Rockville, Md. 20852

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Mr. Stanley S. Carpenter
Director, Office of Territorial Affairs
Department of the Interior
18th and C Streets, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Mr. Carpenter:

As a part of the overall effort of the Executive Branch to reduce Federal employment, NOAA has been reviewing all of its programs to see what adjustments might be made to reduce its total number of full-time, permanent employees.

Some time ago we thought of approaching the High Commissioner of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands with the proposal that our method of employing Micronesians at our weather stations in the Trust Territory be changed. Our idea was that we would make an annual transfer of funds to the High Commissioner and, in return, he would hire and pay all of our Micronesian employees. This would have two advantages; it would reduce the total number of employees on our rolls, and it would be a step toward the ultimate transfer of weather services within the Territory to Micronesian control and operations. Subsequently, there have been preliminary discussions between Mr. Richard Hagemeyer of the National Weather Service and Mr. John DeYoung of your office and it has been determined that such a proposal would not present serious problems. We have now looked at this idea in detail and wish to begin formal negotiations with the Trust Territory Government to accomplish it.

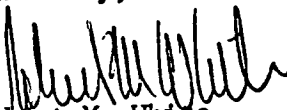
What we would propose to the Trust Territory Government does not involve a reduction in services by the NOAA National Weather Service. We would propose only that the responsibility for hiring and paying the Micronesians currently in our employ be transferred to the Trust Territory Government. We would reimburse them for this expense. We would continue to provide

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the weather observation facilities in the Territory and to maintain them. We would also provide a liaison officer at each station (a U.S. Civil Servant) who would be responsible for maintaining the electronic equipment at the station and for providing such technical guidance and assistance as might be required by the Micronesian official in charge. Additionally, we would provide appropriate supervisory personnel stationed either in Guam or Saipan and would continue to furnish all supplies and materials needed for the operation of the stations.

The purpose of this letter is to request approval of the Department of the Interior to this approach. If you are agreeable, we would propose that detailed negotiations be handled between our Pacific Regional Headquarters in Honolulu and the Office of the High Commissioner. Hopefully, these could begin soon with the idea of completing all arrangements and formally transferring the personnel to Trust Territory employment sometime after January 1, 1975, but before June 30, 1975. If this approach and timetable is agreeable to you, we would appreciate early concurrence so that we can have our Pacific Regional Headquarters begin discussions with the High Commissioner and his staff.

Sincerely,



Robert M. White
Administrator