

Zellars



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

FEB 11 1974

Dear Secretary Schlesinger:

As you know, the Department of the Interior administers the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (Micronesia) for the United States under a Trusteeship Agreement with the United Nations. The United States is presently engaged in a series of complicated negotiations with the Congress of Micronesia and the Marianas Political Status Commission to determine the future political status of the islands.

At present, Micronesia is in a period of transition and Interior is undertaking a number of programs designed to prepare Micronesians to take over the reins of their government once the trusteeship is ended. In line with United States responsibilities in the territory, it occurs to me that it would be advantageous to establish a program in Washington and, in some cases, in the appropriate Federal region, Region IX in San Francisco, whereby Micronesians could learn first hand the processes of the Federal government and participate in activities which would benefit them in present and future governmental positions in their islands. I have in mind a flexible program which could be tailored to the individual for a period of six to twelve months. Since both the United States and the Micronesians anticipate a continued relationship after the trusteeship, we will see the results of such training for years to come.

Needless to say, undertaking an intern program on such a large scale as I envision would probably be beyond the resources of any one department. If, however, each agency were to commit itself to funding one such individual, the total budgetary impact on any specific agency would be minimal. Should you wish further details, I request that you designate someone on your staff to contact my Director of Territorial Affairs, Stanley S. Carpenter at 343-6971. Your early consideration of this request would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Robert B. Norton
Secretary of the Interior

Hon. James R. Schlesinger
Secretary, Department of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, D. C. 20301

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