

DECLASSIFIED

01

OFFICE FOR MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

October 9, 1975

Honorable Harrison A. Williams
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Williams:

On behalf of Ambassador F. Haydn Williams, the President's Personal Representative for Micronesian Status Negotiations, I am responding to your letter of September 18, 1975 requesting information on behalf of your constituent Mrs. William Cope, concerning the Mariana Islands and the proposed commonwealth status for the Northern Mariana Islands. While this office cannot address all of Mrs. Cope's concerns, we can provide information on the present status of the Mariana Islands and the obligations of the United States to ensure the self-determination and independence of the Marianas.

U.S. SENATE
MILWAUKEE, WIS.
OCT 10 1975

The Mariana Islands consist of the United States Territory of Guam and the Northern Marianas. The latter are one of the six districts of the United States-administered Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. The entire Trust Territory is administered under the terms of a trusteeship agreement concluded with the United Nations in 1947. Article 6 of the agreement obliges the United States to "promote the development of the inhabitants of the trust territory toward self-government or independence, as may be appropriate to the particular circumstances of the trust territory and its peoples and the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned." The United States is a member of the United Nations Trusteeship Council, and annually reports to that body on progress and developments in the Trust Territory.

Resolution 1541 (XV), passed by the United Nations General Assembly in 1960, defines self-government to include the possibility of integration with an independent state, and adds that such integration "should be the result of the freely expressed wishes of the territory's peoples acting with full knowledge of the change in their status, their wishes having been expressed through informed and democratic processes, impartially conducted and based on universal adult suffrage."

On February 15, 1975, following more than two years of negotiations, a Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America was signed by Ambassador Williams and the Marianas

DECLASSIFIED

05- 420997

DECLASSIFIED

-2-

Political Status Commission, which had been established by the elected representatives of the people of the Northern Marianas in 1972. The Covenant was subsequently approved by the local legislature and by the people of the Northern Marianas in a United Nations-observed plebiscite. Ninety-five percent of the registered voters of the Northern Marianas participated in the plebiscite on June 17, 1975, and the Covenant was endorsed with a 78.8% majority. The United Nations Trusteeship Council sent a special visiting mission to the Marianas to observe the plebiscite.

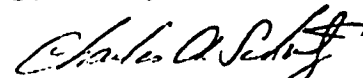
The Covenant is presently undergoing review by the United States Congress. On July 21, the House of Representatives gave its approval to the Covenant, in H.J. Res. 549, by voice vote without objection. The Covenant is now before the Senate for its consideration and approval.

The terms of the Covenant are consistent with the traditional United States commitment to the right of self-determination; and this U.N.-observed act of self-determination, if approved by the United States Congress, will be a major step in the fulfillment of our obligations as Administering Authority.

Mrs. Cope's questions concerning United States responsibility for a nuclear-free Pacific and the necessity for development of the Trident nuclear missile system are beyond the purview of this office and not germane to the Marianas status negotiations. The question concerning a nuclear-free Pacific should be referred to the Department of State. Questions concerning the Trident system should be referred to the Department of Defense.

I have enclosed for your information a copy of the Marianas Covenant and a copy of the statement made by Ambassador F. Haydn Williams at the Senate Interior Committee hearings on July 24. Further, Mr. Skrabut, of your staff, was briefed on the Marianas Covenant by members of our staff on October 9, 1975.

Sincerely yours,



Charles A. Schmitz
Director

Enc: As indicated

CAS:kke

DECLASSIFIED

05-420998

ACTION

TRUST Territory

Region IX
200 N. Vineyard
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

~~ODS~~

Sandy Wojahn
said nothing
I have to do
Decision on
whether we
go ahead
a policy
I will have to
make
Bulzano
HMC

Date: October 9, 1975
Reply to
Attn. of: Marti Polen

Subject: Meeting held with Jack Burgess in Guam on ~~October 2, 1975~~

To: Mike Gale

I feel the meeting between Jack Burgess and myself went very well. Jack was well briefed on DO programs by Sandy Wojahn prior to the meeting he and I had. Our discussions covered the following topics:

- 1) It was difficult to speak concretely on DO programming in Micronesia given the known constraints on existing personnel. There is a general willingness between us though to integrate IO and DO operations. It became apparent that we need a realistic time-frame to work with. We also need clarification from General Counsel on which DO programs can go into the Trust Territories and the Marianas. Once we learn the answers to these issues we then have to deal with obtaining an additional DO slot. Since Jack has an existing office in Saipan (space, equipment, phones and telex to D.C.) it would seem practical to outstation this DO Program Officer, should we get one, in Saipan. Jack agreed with this plan.
- 2) Guam VISTAs being included in Peace Corps training-Jack and I agreed there is very little cultural difference confronting a VISTA going to Guam or a Peace Corps going into Micronesia. Yet, VISTAs get no training prior to service. We have found, as you know, the main reasons for loss of volunteers in Guam to be lack of language skills, lack of cultural preparation and insufficient support allowances. Jack is amenable to Guam VISTAs participating in Peace Corps training for language and cultural orientation. If this is possible, then it would be left to the Sponsors discretion as to whether or not they desire this. From the feedback I received from our two sponsors and potential sponsors on Guam, they think it an excellent idea-especially if they could get volunteers to sign up for two year terms. We need to determine whether or not this is an alternative. The next Peace Corps training in Saipan will be late January. If our new ACV programs come to fruition, the Peace Corps training would coincide with the next Pre-Service Orientation in San Francisco.
- 3) Peace Corps and VISTA Volunteers Serving in the Same Area-Neither of us felt this would be wise. It could easily confuse the volunteers. For example; the subsistence allowances are not only

X

IV
45
✓

22- 430778



-continued-

difference in amounts paid but also in the distribution process and, the stipends are different amounts.

4) Locally Recruited VISTAs in the Marianas-This would be the only exception to entering VISTA into Micronesia. Jack is not replacing Peace Corps Volunteers in the Marianas as their terms come to an end. He would like to offer the District Administrators the option of LRVs as an alternative plan to meet the individual island needs. This idea might perpetuate throughout Micronesia.

5) RSVP-Jack feels this could be a viable program in Micronesia. He will investigate the interest with the proper persons. Not that it is necessarily a prerequisite, but Jack felt the chances of RSVP succeeding in Micronesia would be greatly enhanced if there were first a program in Guam. This further substantiates the need for an outstationed DO Program Officer in Saipan.

6) Finally, Jack informed me of his full staff meeting scheduled for sometime in February of 1976. It would be good for one of us to attend this conference around the next site visit to Guam. I am sure this would give us a much better understanding about Micronesian programming.

Jack will be contacting our office as soon as he has any feedback regarding the items discussed above.

cc. Jack Burgess
Sandy Wojahn
A.R. Kasdan
Donald Brown

IV
46
✓

22-430779