

SEP 19 1977

Mr. Howard P. Willens  
Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering  
1666 K Street, N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20006

Dear Mr. Willens:

It is said that an honest answer taketh away wrath. I hope that my answer to your letter of September 9 will have that effect -- but I recognize that it will not overcome the nonfeasance of which you complain, nor will it meet the problem that will almost certainly confront us as of January 9, 1978.

You did indeed speak of the District Court question when we met on May 3. I did not then know, however, nor did I learn for some months thereafter, that further legislation was thought to be necessary before the court could be established. (Indeed, even now I can only shake my head as I read Article IV of the Covenant.) My too modest, and obviously misdirected, inquiries for some months thereafter led me to understand that we were faced with an easy administrative task, rather than with a major legislative one. When I did recognize recently that the latter was upon us, we moved quite quickly, putting to use all of the respectable, bureaucratic short-cuts that we know, so as to expedite the legislative process. I cannot suppose, however, that these will be anything like sufficient to meet the January deadline, so I will turn, soon but in another forum, to how we will cope.

In the meantime, troubled as I am by this failure to do something on time, I must observe that I am even more troubled by the unknown number of other problems, perhaps of similar magnitude, that I don't yet even know exist. I will continue to try to discover them and to meet them.

Sincerely yours,

MRS. RUTH G. VAN CLEVE

Mrs. Ruth G. Van Cleve  
Director  
Office of Territorial Affairs

R.VAN CLEVE:I&t  
9/19/77