



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Mr. Helms:

JUL 27 1967

I very much appreciate your sharing with me the letter to you from the Managing Editor of the Guam Daily News, Joseph Murphy, and the memorandum on the Trust Territory's current situation and prospects. While Mr. Murphy is not known to me sufficiently to permit me to offer any general appraisal, we regard his newspaper as a responsible one and most of the facts in his letter as being correct and supportable. I do not, however, share his conclusions, which seem to me an overstatement, although I do believe that the pro United States sentiment in the Trust Territory is likely to erode, rather than increase, as time passes.

Because of this fact, this very morning I brought the matter of the political future of the Trust Territory officially to the attention of the House Interior Committee. I enclose a copy of my prepared statement. Our position, as you can see, is the product of close cooperation and study for many months by the Departments of Defense, State, and the Interior. We expect that within the next week, an Executive Communication will go forward to the Congress, over the President's signature, calling for the creation of the study commission which I discussed this morning. The Committee appeared receptive to this approach and we expect to press for very early action.

Sincerely yours,

(sgd) Stewart

Secretary of the Interior

Mr. Richard Helms  
Director, Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D. C. 20505

Enclosure

*cc Mrs. Van Clive*

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MEMORANDUM

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON


July 28, 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. ROSTOW

Walt -

The letter is interesting, but people knowledgeable as to conditions and political developments in the Trust Territory do not agree with Murphy's conclusion that we are losing out in the Trust Territory. I attach a copy of a note that Udall sent Helms yesterday commenting on the Murphy letter. I understand that the State Department's view parallels that of Interior.

We are trying to find out something more about Mr. Murphy and his claimed friendship with our top civilian and military representatives in Guam and the Trust Territory. To the best of our knowledge, he has not shared his views with the High Commissioner, and Interior is of the opinion that the High Commissioner would strongly oppose having Murphy set up shop as a one-man America Lobby somewhere in the Trust Territory. Certainly if we hear of any organization with money to spend that may be thinking of underwriting Murphy's proposal, we should think twice before encouraging it to go ahead with such an undertaking.

  
Charles E. Johnson

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By lig NARA, Date 12-4-90

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