

EXECUTIVE

August 5, 1968

Dear Mr. Won Pat: *Antonio B.*

The President some time ago asked me to thank you for your letter expressing your concern about the Trust Territory and enclosing the clipping from the Guam newspaper. I apologize for my delay in answering your letter, but I wanted to give it the attention it warrants and the press of immediate business made an earlier reply difficult.

I believe that the record of this Administration fully reflects the deep interest of the President and the Congress in the Trust Territory. During the past four years, we have doubled appropriations from \$15 million in 1964 to \$30 million in FY 1968. In the same period, elementary and high school enrollment has been increased from 18,000 to 23,000 pupils, while the number of college scholarships has gone from 196 to 300.

In the near future, the first modern hospital ever constructed in the Territory will be built, and it will be followed by a start on a major teaching-referral hospital on Ponape. Meanwhile, we have laid the groundwork for air service competition in the Territory. A positive plan for a hotel-resort development with Micronesian participation has been formulated.

As you know, the damages inflicted by Typhoon Jean in April were a serious economic and psychological blow to the people of the Marianas and the Truk district. Subsequently, however, the President allocated more than \$8.5 million for typhoon relief, most of which will go to the Marianas and to Saipan. In April, the President personally directed the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to make available an additional \$4 million for the purchase of Guam home mortgages by the FNMA.

Furthermore, a supplemental appropriation of \$6 million was obtained to augment the resources already made available to the Trust Territory by the United States. Despite the fiscal restrictions under which the Federal Government is currently operating, we were able to obtain most of the budget request for FY 1969.

I am also sure that you know that the Department of the Interior has actively supported proposed legislation which would authorize the election of the Governor of the Trust Territory.

This record demonstrates, I believe, that although our job in the Trust Territory is far from complete, it may fairly be said that the Johnson Administration has made unprecedented major efforts to assist in the economic, social and political development of the Trust Territory. That development will continue to be our goal.

Nevertheless, if some of the political leaders and citizens of Saipan choose to seek tangible assistance from Japan, we certainly wish them well. It is our understanding from press reports, however, that their quest has so far met with only limited success.

Sincerely,

Harry C. McPherson, Jr.  
Special Counsel to the President

Honorable Antonio B. Won Pat  
Representative  
Territory of Guam  
200 Maryland Avenue, N. E. (Suite 301)  
Washington, D. C. 20242

HCM/DAF/Dept. of Interior/crm

bcc: Mr. Harry R. Anderson  
Ass't Secretary of Interior *sent*  
for Public Land Management

9

RECEIVED  
AUG 5 1968  
CENTRAL FILES

# Officials are blasted

By GINGER SINNIGEN  
Journal Staff Writer

In a move which may prove embarrassing to the United States government, four Saipanese officials left this morning for Tokyo to seek financial assistance from their "friends" in Japan.

The delegation is seeking funds for the rehabilitation of the typhoon-ravaged island, center of the Trust Territory government administered by the United States under a United Nations mandate.

Before they left, the group took a swipe at the Americans who administer the U.S. program.

The criticism was directed at the entire administration of the Trust Territory in general. Vicente D. Sablan, president of the Mariana Island District Legislature, outlined their grievances. "We've belonged to four nations," he observed, citing previous masters, the Spanish, Germans, Japanese and now Americans, "and who knows what tomorrow will bring."

The United States has never asked our opinion when they decide to do something. We're not thinking of the price tag (which may be attached to Japanese assistance). The Japanese are our friends and have offered to help us. We're just innocent bystanders."

The others in the delegation, Vicente D. Sablan, mayor of Saipan; Herman Q. Guerrero, speaker of the Saipan Legislature; and Olympio T. Borja, vice-president of the Congress of Micronesia, nodded their agreement.

In response to offers of economic aid from Japanese businessmen, the group is traveling to Tokyo to investigate the opportunities. They had previously sent a resolution to the Trust

facilities. This amount, they said, did not take into account the losses suffered by individual people of the islands.

And, the amount of assistance pledged to the islands by the United States Office of Emergency Planning was only \$2.5 million for rehabilitation of government and public facilities. None of that was earmarked for private reconstruction.

Their interest, they said, was to find financing for the people. And they would seek the funds whenever they could get them. As the officials prepared to board the plane for their pilgrimage to Japan, High Commissioner William Horwood was in Washington attempting to obtain a \$10 million supplemental appropriation for the Trust Territory.

But, they explained, of this amount (which was not guaranteed), only \$3.2 (in the form of loans, would be channeled to the people for low-cost housing, and that would have to be split among the needs of the entire Trust Territory.

They estimated that for the Mariana Island alone, at least \$6 million would be needed to provide the type of housing which would withstand the constant threat of typhoons.

"We will seek every avenue of assistance," one of them added.

Motivating their move to employ Japanese assistance, Santos bluntly stated his opinion.

"Development has been very slow in the Trust Territory. It's not that the United States isn't working, it's the people who are slow here. They're not trained. They don't know the technical language of the needs of the people."

"They're only interested in

in the Trust Territory is unique. They (the U.S.) need to see the reality of the islands; needs and throw away the book. They must be imaginative."

"Many of the (American) people are looking for an easy way out," Santos concluded.

And, the other delegates, listening intently to Santos, concurred.

In a prepared statement, Mayor Sablan observed of the trip, "It should be made clear it is not intended to show any offense to the U.S. government, because we have been offered many times, by our friends in Japan,

any assistance that we may sometimes need, and we feel the time is now here."

"For the welfare of the typhoon-stricken islands, we are going to answer these offers (from Japan)."

"As leaders of our community, we are only thinking of welfare of our people. We do not wish to create any dissension among people. We are very grateful for the present assistance that we are now receiving from U.S. government."

Sen. Borja concluded, "aid coming from the U.S. is adequate to cover the immediate needs."



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"They're only interested in their pocketbooks. We hope in the future, whoever is sent here will be training and as a dedicated representative of the United States."

They also said they were disappointed to find that the United States had not provided the training and equipment needed for the people of the Trust Territory.

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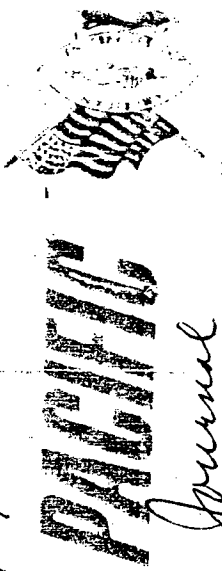
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In response to offers of economic aid from Japanese businessmen, the group is traveling to Tokyo to investigate the opportunities. They had previously sent a resolution to the Trust Territory government of Japan to ask aid in providing financial backing for the building of a thousand-unit housing for the people who do which were offered by private business and individuals. The people are in need of housing.



HEADING FOR TOKYO, four Saipanese officials pause financial assistance from Japan. Shown from left are Sen. Vicente D. Sablan and Vicente N. Santos. (Journal photo)

5/10/68



530 million FY69  
\$6 million supplemental

WVW/MS

V. 11/19/68

Dear Mr. Won Pat:

(omit terms ago) (Thank you for)

The President has asked me to acknowledge your letter of May 20 with the clipping from the Guam newspaper and to express our

appreciation for your concern about the Trust Territory. I apologize for my delay in responding to your letter, but I wanted to give it the attention it warrants and the priority of immediate business made an earlier reply difficult. We have been bending major efforts to the task of assisting

in the economic, social and political development of the Trust Territory although this Administration would be the last to claim that the job has been completed. Obviously, it has not. However, we have doubled

the level of appropriations during the past four years from \$15,000,000 in 1964 to a fiscal year 1969 budget request of \$34,000,000. In the same period we increased elementary and high school enrollment from 18,000 to 23,000 pupils and the number of college scholarships from 196

to 300. With funds contained in the fiscal year 1969 budget request, we plan to build the first modern hospital ever to be constructed in the territory and to follow it with a start on a major teaching-referral hospital on Ponape. In the field of economic development, we laid the ground-work for spirited competition for air service in the territory, which has culminated in a jet service which started last month and a positive plan for hotel-resort development with Micronesian participation.

The foregoing examples are cited merely as indications that we have indeed been interested in and concerned about the Trust Territory and its needs. The damages inflicted by Typhoon Jean last April in the Marianas and in the Truk District were a serious blow and without question struck heavily at public morale. The President has allocated more than \$8,500,000 for typhoon relief, most of which will go to the Marianas Islands and to Saipan, and we are actively considering a supplemental appropriation

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Subsequently, however, In April, the President personally directed the Department of HUD to make available and to Saipan, and we are actively considering a supplemental appropriation Furthermore, a supplemental appropriation of \$6,000,000 was

an additional \$4,000,000 for the purchase of Guam home mortgages by the FNMBA

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obtained to which will materially augment the resources already made available to the Trust Territory by the United States. The outcome of the letter, of course, is closely related to the fiscal <sup>Despite</sup> ~~problems~~ <sup>Restrictions under the Federal govern-</sup> ~~ment is~~ <sup>operating, \$30,000,000 has been appropriated for 1969.</sup> currently facing. <sup>Nevertheless,</sup> If some of the political leaders of Saipan choose to seek assistance from Japan, we would wish them well, although <sup>It is our</sup> ~~it is our~~ understanding from press reports that their quest has met with <sup>so far</sup> ~~only very~~ <sup>limited</sup> ~~little~~ success.

Again, our thanks for your thoughtful and perceptive letter.

I am sure that you also know that the Department of the Interior has actively supported proposed legislation to authorize the collection of the Excise of the Trust Territory.

Harry C. McPherson, Jr.

<sup>It</sup> This record <sup>I believe,</sup> demonstrates that although our job in the Trust Territory is far from complete, it is fair to say that this Administration has made major efforts to assist in the economic, social and political development of the Trust Territory. That will continue to be our goal.

5/29/68

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

To: Secretary of the Interior

Date: May 28, 1968

ACTION REQUESTED

- Draft reply for:
  - President's signature.
  - Undersigned's signature.
- Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.
- Direct reply.
- Furnish information copy.
- Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.
- Furnish copy of reply, if any.
- For your information.
- For comment.

NOTE

*Prompt action is essential.*

If more than 48 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately, Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

REMARKS:

Description:

Letter:  Telegram; Other:

To: The President  
 From: Rep. Antonio B. Won Pat, Territory of Guam  
 Date: May 20, 1968  
 Subject: Expresses concern over growing feeling on the part of the people of the Trust Territory that the U.S. is neglecting them with respect to their economic, social and political development; attaches news article which indicates "friends" in Tokyo were being asked to furnish financial assistance rather than the U.S.

By direction of the President:

*Hm*

Harry C. McPherson, Jr.  
Special Counsel to the President

(Copy to remain with correspondence)

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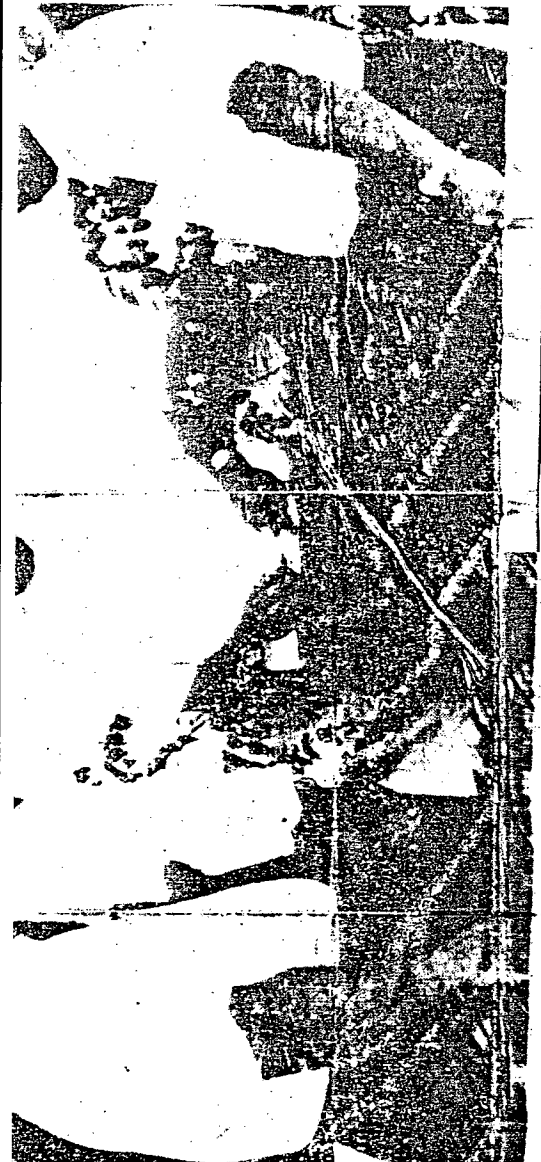
"I've found that the high commission is good, but the subordinates are not. They're not good and they're not interested."

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5/10/68

PACIFIC

Journal



CLAYTON



# Territory of Guam

U.S.A.

OFFICE OF GUAM'S REPRESENTATIVE IN WASHINGTON  
200 MARYLAND AVENUE, NE - SUITE 301  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242

May 20, 1968

TELEPHONE:  
WO 3-4655  
CODE 13 EXT 34655  
AREA CODE 202

A. B. WON PAT  
REPRESENTATIVE

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

As an American citizen and a popularly elected representative of Guam, a part of Micronesia, I have been concerned over the growing feeling on the part of the people of the Trust Territory that they have been somewhat neglected with respect to their economic, social and political development.

Incidents such as the one described in the enclosure can be a subject of embarrassment to us -- the United States.

As of this writing, there is little chance that this manifestation of discontent will spread to Guam, although there will surely be some degree of sympathetic sentiment among Guamanians; and it would be a mistake to take this for granted as an insignificant fact.

I am hopeful that you, Mr. President, and Members of Congress recognize this problem and take immediate necessary action to meet it to the mutual interest of these people and the United States.

Respectfully yours,

Antonio B. Won Pat

Enclosure

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