



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

October 11, 1973

Honorable James Wilson
Office of Micronesian Status
Negotiations
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

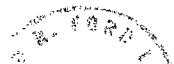
Dear Jim:

We understand that you are working out arrangements for assignment of a second officer to the Status LNO office on Saipan, and that the officer would have special responsibilities for developing a political education program, in addition to serving as Mary Vance Trent's deputy. We also understand that USIA is nominating an officer for this assignment and that, if accepted, he would be on reimburseable detail to your office. In this connection we gather that Mary Trent is deeply concerned about the USIS and "political education" label that could undermine the effectiveness of this second officer. We tend to share this concern and wonder whether it might not be better to assign a State FSO who would have essentially the same duties, but who would not have the liability of being labeled as a "USIA propagandist."

There apparently also is some question as to the level of Japanese language skills possessed by the USIA officer being nominated. We have all considered Japanese language skills as being extremely desirable for any officer assigned to Saipan, and perhaps essential for any officer who will have extensive responsibilities in the field of political education. Although it is for your office to make the final decision on candidates, it is in all of our interests to have the most effective possible officer assigned to that position.

Beyond the above considerations, it is also important to have an officer with political reporting

Photocopy from Gerald R. Ford Library



experience and skills who can effectively complement Mary's work, and, in her absence, act in every way as Status LNO.

Given time pressures and the difficulty of locating and assigning at short notice a Japanese speaking FSO (including the fact that such a posting would be outside the normal assignments cycle), it may not be possible at this late date to shift gears from USIA to State. However, if the above thoughts in your view have merit, we would be happy to cooperate in attempting to find and nominate suitable FSO candidates for reimburseable detail. In any event, I wonder if the time factor is as important as the selection of the right officer? Too, I understand that the ground rules for a political education program are by no means yet firm. In these circumstances some additional delay in finding the right officer might do little or no harm.

Sincerely,

Arthur W. Hummel, Jr.
Acting Assistant Secretary
East Asian and Pacific Affairs

