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COMMUNICATION RECEIVED FROM MR. LOWELL R. WILEY CONCERNING
THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

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c/o Bob Mauri
Apartment 101
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New York, N.Y. 10025

The United Nations Trusteeship Council
United Nations
New York, N.Y. 10017

Gentlemen:

The upcoming hearings on the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands are of great interest to me. I was in the Marshall Islands as a Peace Corps Volunteer from July, 1968 to June, 1969. Assigned as a teacher of English as a second language to Milli Island, Milli Atoll. I feel that I had an excellent opportunity to to some degree understand the feelings of Micronesians about past, present, and future situations in their country.

Although on active duty with the United States Army, I feel it my duty to reveal to the council what seem to be scandalous shortcomings on the part of the United States in fullfilling its pledged role as trustee. Health and educational responsibilities have been adequately provided only on paper. For example, rather elaborate though inaccurate records are kept on schools where virtually no learning occurs if, indeed, on many days classes are held at all. Regretfully, what I have seen leads me to believe that there could hardly be more than ten elementary schools in the whole territory where graduates are equipped to compete in an adequate secondary school. High schools are seemingly universally undeserving of the name.

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Furthermore, my own experience leads me to believe that the United States goal in Micronesia has always been and continues to be retention of control of the area for its own uses with little or no concern for the welfare of the Micronesians themselves. While having no doubts at all as to the commitment of individual Peace Corps volunteers to do what they can to help the people, I am greatly troubled by what I suspect to be the real reasons for Peace Corps presence in the country and the effects of that presence.

For example, on one occasion the United States Department of Defense intervened directly and forced cancellation of a Peace Corps lawyer program important to the establishment of the beginnings of democratic political institutions within the Trust Territory government. Peace Corps staff openly admitted the Department of Defense role in the cancellation to volunteers in the field along with details as to its transmission and the reactions of various staff members.

While some rumors are not verifiable (i.e., chemical-biological warfare research on Eniwetok-personnel and equipment traveling between there and Dugway Proving Ground, etc.), others might be looked into. Perhaps the council would be interested in communicating with Dr. James A. Clifton, now with the Center for Anthropological Studies at Prescott College, Prescott, Arizona. He was employed in Micronesia as a research anthropologist with Project Themis, backed by the Department of Defense and centered at the University of Kansas. Other members of the staff of that project, which is still in operation, have told me that he resigned from the program because he thought that the political implications of the research jeopardized his academic integrity. He so stated his viewpoint in a letter to that university causing an investigation by the University of Kansas of Project Themis to determine whether it would be allowed to continue.

The holding of the election in 1972 to decide permanently the future status of the territory seems to be an injustice at best and, perhaps, an act of overt international robbery. The Trust Territory government has made no effort to acquaint the people with the available political alternatives. Rather, it seems intent upon withholding such information.

If I may be of any conceivable help to the council at all, please inform me thereof. I will do anything within my power to be of assistance. Thank you very much.

Most respectfully,

(Signed) Lowell R. Wiley

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