



THE INSTITUTE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

4750 North Sheridan Road, Chicago, Illinois 60640, Tele: 312/769-5635, Cable: ICACHI

December 27, 1974

Dr. Arthur S. Flemming
Administration on Aging
Department of Health, Education and Welfare
330 Independence Avenue S.W.
Washington, D. C. 20201

Dear Dr. Flemming:

My brother and I were very pleased to visit with you last week and to talk about the state and possibilities of the aging people of the world. As I told you in our visit, the ICA, a corollary organization to the Ecumenical Institute has been retained by the leaders of the Marshall Islands as consultants for a comprehensive human development program. One of the critical aspects of this project has to do with a unique research and demonstration program that aims to enable the elders to usefully and creatively engage with other age groups in the determination of the future of the Marshallese people. Such an opportunity is foundational to responsible and effective care of the aging. The following attempts to provide the story behind this unusual experimental program.

The Marshall Islands District of the Trust Territory in Micronesia occupies one million square miles of ocean in the heart of the Pacific. The Marshallese people are at a destinal juncture in their history as they move toward self-sufficiency. This requires a comprehensive program of social and economic development, and it ought to be initiated immediately. The Marshallese are eager to pick up the major responsibility for such an undertaking. They can do this, but they are going to need assistance. The Institute of Cultural Affairs of Chicago has been requested to provide this assistance.

In September, 1974, the Board of Directors of the Kwajalein Island Trading Company (KITCO) along with Marshallese leaders invited the Institute of Cultural Affairs to set up a consult on Community Development in the Marshall Islands. Out of this ten-day meeting, the Marshall's Human Development Project (MHDP) emerged. The project is aimed at the social and economic betterment of the Marshallese people toward their own self-sufficiency. The consult built an inclusive model of socio-economic development for the Marshalls. The model consists of 22 complex programs with four sub-programs under each. This total of 88 programs intends: first, to develop an inclusive, relevant community training construct; second, to develop community structures and upgrade social services; and third, to develop a progressively balanced, privately managed local economy.



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A systematic follow-up of the Majuro consult established authorization networks involving both the public and private sectors on the local, territorial, and federal levels. On the local level the MHDP has received the full cooperation of the District Administrator, Mr. Oscar DeBrum, Senator Amata Kabua, and the speaker of the Nitijela, Mr. Attan Anien. It has the participation of most of the major business leaders, such as Mr. Robert Reimers, Mr. Henry Samuels, and Mr. Ajidrik Bien. Finally, on the local scene the Iroj, the traditional leadership of the Marshall Islands, such as Kabua Kabua and Joba Kabua, are firmly behind MHDP. Most important the people at large are highly enthusiastic about the new possibilities the project offers. On the territorial level the High Commissioner, Mr. Edward Johnston, the Deputy Commissioner, Mr. Peter Coleman, and the departmental staff are putting both monies and services into the development project, which hopefully can be later replicated in the other five districts of the Trust Territory. Finally, Mr. Stanley Carpenter and his office in the Department of the Interior on the federal level are fully supportive of the plan. Other agencies and departments in the national government have also expressed interest in cooperation with the project.

Since the first Majuro consult, various groups working together on the several levels have built tactical systems to activate the inclusive plan of MHDP. These actuating tactics have been organized into two phases covering two years. There are 8 tactical programs for each phase. In each case 4 programs relate to economic development and 4 to social development. The four for phase one in the economic arena are The Small Industry Program; The Copra-Lagoon System; Multi-Purpose Repair Center; and The Majuro Business Center. The four in social development are labeled The Marshall Islands Ferry System; The Marshallese Training Corps; The All-Island Pre-School; and The Heritage-Tourism Project. The ICA believes if all of these are done all at once, discernable evidence of socio-economic revitalization will occur by the end of 1976 or before.

The Heritage-Tourism Project is the unique experimental program for the aging. The aim is to provide the means for authentically engaging the elderly in the present moment of the Marshallese along with the younger citizens and the emerging generation. Such relevant engagement is the only answer to the personal and social frustrations relative to the older citizens in any nation. The project has two interrelated efforts. One has to do with the effort to capture and preserve the ancient traditions of the Marshallese people. The other involves sharing that tradition with the world through the tourist industry.

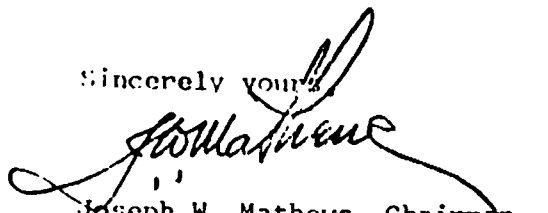
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The first design is aimed at saving the stories, myths, customs, dances, and rituals of the Marshallese before they are lost forever with the passing of the present older generation, the last of the generations that remembers them. The plan calls for an anthropologist, a media expert along with a team of two concerned and able Marshallese elders plus two young apprentices traveling to all of the 21 inhabited atolls and islands of the Marshalls collecting on sound cameras the ancient traditions of these Island peoples. This will involve in principle all of the elders of the Marshall Islands. They can have a deep sense of significant participation in the future of their society by remembering, transposing, and transmitting the past into the life forms of a new age. This will be coupled with a simple but profound adult education program of informing the aging of the new development project and the new future of the Marshallese.

The second design is related to the first. It is the construction of an ancient Marshallese village on an uninhabited islet in the Majuro Atoll, which is the district center. This would be done by the elders who are the only ones who have the know-how to do it. Groups of them would be brought for several weeks from the outer islands to work on the village and then return so that other groups could be brought to weave and carve and construct and plan. Again they would be informed about the human development plan, and they would discuss and share their own views and hopes. They also would teach the arts and crafts to the younger generation. Perhaps most important: this work directly and very usefully contributes to the entire development project in providing a very important tourist attraction which will enable the Marshallese to promote and control their own tourist industry. This will make unnecessary outside-tourism investors, which has proven a questionable economic and social value. Here is a program for the elders which combines practical education and useful engagement.

The results of such an experiment relative to the aging, we feel, can be useful in many parts of our own nation as well as in many other parts of the world. An exciting part of all this is that we believe it can be done relatively inexpensively. With support from local Marshall Islands agencies it could probably be done for \$150,000 or less for the first year, leaving open the future funding. Already this intended note has become laboriously long, so I'll stop. All of us are really excited about it. Thank you for listening, and I hope that I can see you again sometime in the future in Washington. Have a happy New Year.

Sincerely yours,



Joseph W. Mathews, Chairman
Institute of Cultural Affairs



THE INSTITUTE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
4750 North Sheridan Road, Chicago, Illinois 60640, Tele: 312/769-5635, Cable: ICACHI

November 8, 1974

The Honorable Edward E. Johnston
High Commissioner
Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950

Dear Mr. Johnston:

As you know, the Institute of Cultural Affairs believes that effectivity in human development depends on dealing with all the socio-economic issues together, and all at the same time. In order to actualize the 22 programs of the Comprehensive Human Development Plan for the Marshall Islands, the ICA will need assistance from both the private and public sectors of the society on the local, territorial and federal levels.

Since broad-based local support is already underway, ICA respectfully requests the assistance of the High Commissioner in regard to the territorial and federal sectors. In the broad sense, this would mean acknowledgement of the human development plan, assistance in funding various programs, and the wisdom and services of the Territorial offices where practically needed.

More immediately, the ICA would appreciate a letter to the Marshalls District Administrator about the human development project in general and specifically the Trans Atoll Service Corporation and Mr. Robert Fishel, the new Director of M.C.A.A. Secondly, we would request a letter affirming the Comprehensive Human Development Plan sent to Mr. Stanley S. Carpenter of the Department of the Interior, and Ambassador Franklin Haydn Williams.



CONCERNED WITH THE HUMAN ELEMENT IN WORLD DEVELOPMENT



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Mr. Early and I deeply appreciate your gracious reception and your encouragement in regard to ICA's development programs for the Marshall Islands.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'J. Mathews', written over a horizontal line.

Joseph W. Mathews
Chairman
Institute of Cultural Affairs





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November 20, 1974

Mr. Stanley S. Carpenter
Director, Office of Territorial Affairs
U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Carpenter:

The representatives of the Institute of Cultural Affairs were pleased to make their report to you yesterday about the follow-up of the consult held in Majuro during September last on the socio-economic development of the Marshall Islands. Relative to our discussion on the next steps to be taken we thought it might be helpful to you if they were summarized in the form of a note.

First and most obvious is ICA's need for a supporting statement from the Department of the Interior about the Marshalls Human Development Project. This is the first question asked on all levels, local, territorial and in the government agencies in Washington, when funding is pursued. This could be in the form of a letter to the district administrator in Majuro and the High Commissioner in Saipan with copies to the Institute of Cultural Affairs.

Second, though the ICA is prepared to do the work in actualizing the various programs of the project and in promoting the funding, it needs the wisdom and guidance of the staff of the Territorial Affairs Office in planning the concrete ways and means. Again, this would relate to territorial and district sources as well as agencies and departments in Washington.

Third, because the proposed inter-atoll ferry service is foundational to many other programs, some of which also require ships, the ICA needs the assistance of the Interior Department in obtaining retired vessels. Those needed immediately are: 5 Army T Boats; 1 ARB from Mare Island; 1 YFNB large; 5 YFNB medium and 3 YF ships. Mr. R.M. Laird, Port Manager of Trust Territories Transportation Department has researched these vessels for ICA at Mr. Joe Beatles instruction.

Fourth, ICA would appreciate the help of the Department of the Interior relative to the seed money necessary for the project. The plan is for a matching grant: \$60,000 from the public





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sector and \$60,000 from the private sector. It would be, of course, extremely valuable if the public portion could somehow come through the offices or services of the Department of the Interior.

Once again we were pleased to talk with you and your staff yesterday and will, as you suggested, get in touch with your office after December 10th. I trust it will be alright to obtain some needed information from your staff in the meantime as we continue our research efforts.

Sincerely yours,

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Dr. Joseph W. Mathews
Chairman
Institute of Cultural Affairs



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Dr. Joseph W. Mathews
Chairman
Institute of Cultural Affairs



CONCERNED WITH THE HUMAN ELEMENT IN WORLD DEVELOPMENT



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE



DEC 20 1974

Mr. Robert E. Nelson
Institute of Pacific Island Forestry
1179 Punchbowl Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Mr. Nelson:

On December 19, I met with Dr. Joseph W. Mathews, Chairman of the Institute of Cultural Affairs and members of his staff and heard of plans to help the people of the Marshall Islands towards self-development. The Institute has been invited by the Marshallese to be their consultants in a comprehensive social-economic development plan which has the approval of the High Commissioner of the Pacific Islands Trust Territory.

An immediate objective of the Institute is assistance in increasing copra production, but a long term objective is the realization of maximum sustained benefits from the forests. Other agricultural benefits will also be pursued.

Dr. Mathews will be passing through Honolulu on his way to Saipan within the next couple of weeks. I am anxious to have you meet him so that he can ask the kinds of questions that will help determine how we might be able to assist in this project. You will no doubt be hearing from him soon.

Sincerely,

John R. McGuire
for JOHN R. MCGUIRE
Chief

cc: Dr. Joseph W. Mathews ✓
Mr. Dickerman
Mr. Thornton
PSW Station
R-5, State & Private