



TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950

COMMERCIAL
CABLE ADDRESS
HICOTT SAIPAN

April 16, 1971

Mrs. Marguerite A. Hart
Troy Public Library
5044 Rochester Road
Troy, Michigan 48084

Dear Mrs. Hart:

Thank you for the opportunity to write to the children of Troy, Michigan, upon the occasion of the opening of their first public library.

This is being written on an island which lies two-thirds of the North American Continent from Troy, and two-thirds and more across the wide Pacific Ocean.

What can one so far away have to say that may be of interest to you? First of all, the island of Saipan, where our Trust Territory Headquarters is located, is an island not unlike those of story-book fame: Treasure Island and Robinson Crusoe's island. I can, therefore, assure young readers that such places do exist and that they represent one of the real treasures of our world.

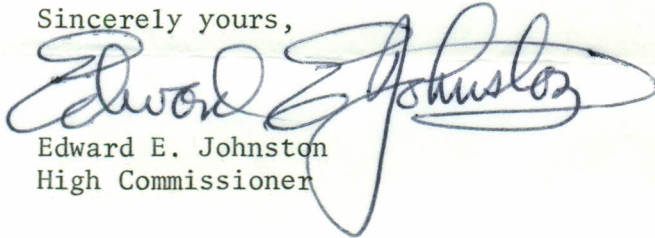
It is not buried treasure, but the natural richness of the earth and the sea that is found here and which we try to guard from modern day pirates who might wish to plunder without accepting any of the responsibility for their actions. Our U.S. government, yours and mine, with its capital in Washington, D.C., had accepted responsibility for this area. Following World War II, a war in which Troy, Michigan, probably lost more than one of her citizens here in these islands, our government began to administer the Caroline, Mariana, and Marshall Islands under a Trusteeship Agreement with the United Nations. Our work, not unlike that of the citizens of Troy, is to try to establish and to preserve conditions favorable to the growth and prosperity of the community. In this work, we have had to build hospitals and schools. We have also had to train and provide doctors, nurses, and teachers, and we too, have the beginnings of a public library program. There is, in fact, a bookmobile that tours this very island.

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If you will look at a map of the Pacific, you will see that ships and planes have to travel very far to reach us, and we must rely on them even for the paper upon which this letter is written. Perhaps someday you will have the opportunity to sail on such a ship, or pilot a plane that might touch down at one of our several airports. If you do, you will find the people of these islands, the Micronesians, gracious hosts and lovers of a good story.

Good reading and good fortune to you all.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Edward E. Johnston". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Edward E. Johnston
High Commissioner