

MUN 45 19 AUG 71

TO: DURKEE INFO YARROW HOVEY KAUFMANN  
FM: WALTER

191829:

JUST HAD A MEETING WITH RFE STAFF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DAG, BJV, ANG, AND NWC TO DISCUSS THE LEGISLATIVE AND BUDGETARY SITUATIONS. IT WENT VERY WELL INDEED WITH EVERYONE DOING HIS BEST TO BE CONSTRUCTIVE. A PROPOSAL WAS MADE BY THE EMPLOYEES TO POSTPONE THE HOME LEAVE CYCLE FOR ONE YEAR, WHICH WILL HAVE THE EFFECT OF PUSHING BACK FOR A YEAR THE HOME LEAVES OF ALL CONCERNED. THIS, IN TURN, WILL SAVE US A CONSIDERABLE SUM OF MONEY-- APPROXIMATELY \$100,000 WHICH WILL BE HELPFUL IN REDUCING THE SIZE OF CUTS WE ANTICIPATED MAKING IN SUCH ACCOUNTS AS FREE LANCE. WE ASKED FOR THIS SUGGESTION IN WRITING, AND IT HAS BEEN PROMISED TO US SOONEST.

HAVING REVIEWED THE VISA AND IMMIGRATION TRAVEL ACCOUNT, I SEE NO REAL SAVINGS POSSIBILITIES. I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE WRONG FOR US TO ATTEMPT TO DISCOURAGE PEOPLE'S EFFORTS TO OBTAIN U.S. CITIZENSHIP AS THE ORIGINAL DECISION BY AN INDIVIDUAL OR FAMILY TO DO SO CLEARLY INVOLVES VERY FUNDAMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE FUTURE OF THOSE CONCERNED.

DURING TODAY'S MEETING I MENTIONED THAT IT SEEMED IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO CONSIDER BEGINNING CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS ON 15 SEPTEMBER AS WE WOULD HAVE NO BUDGET FIGURE BY THAT DATE. NO ONE EITHER COMMENTED OR ASKED QUESTIONS.

I, OF COURSE, EXPLAINED THE RESPONSIBLE ATTITUDE BEING DISPLAYED BY THE FE/RFE GUILD LEADERS AND MEMBERS AND AM SURE THIS WAS HELPFUL.

ALL PRESENT WERE GIVEN WARM THANKS FOR THEIR INITIATIVE IN VOLUNTEERING FOR TEMPORARY PAY CUTS OF FIVE PERCENT. I AM TOLD THAT AS OF A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO THERE WERE ABOUT 500 PEOPLE WILLING TO PARTICIPATE IN SUCH A PLAN. THIS IS REALLY IMPRESSIVE.

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TODAY'S PARTICIPANTS WERE TOLD THAT WE CONTINUE TO HOPE THAT WE CAN GET THROUGH THIS PERIOD WITHOUT REDUCING ANYONE'S SALARY, HENCE WE WOULD NOT ACCEPT THEIR GENEROUS OFFER AT THIS TIME. I HOPE YOU WILL INFORM THE ANG PEOPLE OF THE REAL EFFORT THEIR COLLEAGUES NOW ARE MAKING TO HELP THE ORGANIZATION. OTHERS MAY ALSO BE INTERESTED IN THIS.

END MSG