

Mr. Watson

Mary Jo said Governor Lee and Under Secretary Carver are in the Fish Room.

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ST 51
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Lee, H. Key

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Honorable Stewart L. Udall
Secretary of the Interior
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On several occasions during the past three years I have discussed with you some of the problems concerning the relationship between Western Samoa, which gained independence in 1962, and American Samoa. I have also discussed these problems on occasion with officials of the State Department. While there are no big immediate problems, there are some danger signals that I see ahead and I should like to summarize again the problems and my recommendations of some of the positive steps that could be taken now, which might alleviate some very big and insolvable problems in the future.

The basic problem is that at one time the Samoan Islands were considered as one people and were united. While this was a loose confederation of islands and did not operate effectively as one nation, looking back on history now, both the people of Western Samoa and American Samoa generally consider that they were divided by agreement of Germany, United States, and Great Britain just before the turn of the century. Khrushchev set the stage for future trouble at the time of the celebration of Western Samoa's independence in January 1962. As I recall, in his message of congratulations to Western Samoa and in several general statements that he made to the world at that time, his theme was to this effect: "We have now helped Western Samoa gain her independence; the only thing that remains to be done is to help Samoa regain the part that is still retained by that Imperialistic Power, the United States."

In my opinion, the Soviets have been following through on this premise. For the past year or two, the Soviet Embassy in Wellington has been supplying the Chief of State and the public library in Apia with pro-paganda films and materials and has made numerous inquiries about tourist information in Western Samoa. On a visit to Europe four years ago, the Minister of Finance of Western Samoa was picked up by the Soviets and taken on a plush tour of the Soviet Union and shown the U-2 propaganda items and the "complete works." A year ago, two members of the Indonesian Embassy at Canberra, the charge d'affaires and the

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