



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

Oct. 11, 1966

**Memorandum for Douglass Cater  
The White House**

In response to Mr. Moyer's secret cable from Wellington (No. 474), I am glad to enclose proposed information for the President in the form of draft speech material. In our judgment it would be preferable for the President to limit his comments in American Samoa to matters touching Samoa. There is little connection between American Samoa and the Trust Territory at this time, and little is foreseen.

We therefore submit separately comments concerning the Trust Territory with a brief reference to Guam, which we would hope could be included in remarks by the President in Honolulu. Honolulu is logical from many standpoints. While we recognize the importance of the President's adventing to the Trust Territory, we hope it will be possible for him to refer also at least briefly to Guam, whose Presidentially-appointed Governor had been very hopeful that the President might visit the territory on his trip.

*(sgd.) Charles Luce*

Secretary of the Interior

Enclosures

cc: Secretary's Reading File (2)  
Bob Mangen

VanCleve:cmw  
10/11/66

DRAFT

Proposed Speech by the President  
in American Samoa

Since a President of the United States has never been in American Samoa before, we are dependent on information that comes to us from the many observers of the only area of American sovereignty that is below the equator. For more than two years now, Secretary of the Interior Udall and members of Congress who have visited these beautiful islands have given me glowing reports of the tremendous progress being made here. I am delighted that circumstances have now permitted me to pause briefly to see some of that progress and to offer my congratulations to you and your Governor for the hard work of the last five years.

Of even greater importance and significance are the reports we receive from non-government sources, especially the press which tends to be critical in such matters. They include such remarks as "the Flag is flying more proudly these days over the only United States possession south of the equator," from an editor in Hawaii. A series of articles on Samoa by a New Zealand correspondent was captioned "From Pago Pago Robert Gilmore reports on belated but prodigious progress." The Saturday Review said that "The significance of American Samoa's educational television system is evidenced by the fact that it is being watched closely throughout the world as the most effective way of educating people where there is a terrifically short supply of good schools and good teachers. The system has been studied by UNESCO, the World Bank, New Guinea, New Zealand, India,

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GUSA. ...So far ETV in American Samoa seems to be producing the sudden and explosive upgrading in education that it was intended to do." And an editor of America's most widely distributed monthly periodical only five years ago called Samoa "America's Shame in the South Seas." Last November he began a resurvey article entitled, "Samoa: America's Showplace of the South Seas," with the introductory statement that, "Somewhere on earth there may be a more spectacular example of revolutionary change in an area and its people, but in years of roving the world's far corners I have not seen it."

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These journalists have been reporting to the world that a revolution has been going on in American Samoa for the past five years--the right kind of a revolution. It has been an enlightened economic revolution with accompanying social and political progress. Your mainland fellow Americans advanced you the development capital over the past few years to make productive the beauty of your tropical islands and the riches in the seas around you--and you have responded to the challenge.

The per capita income in American Samoa has increased by over 500% in five years, and your local revenues to support your government services have increased by over 600% in that same time. And those increased resources have been plowed back first into an improved school plant and a quality instruction that is being studied by the whole world as a possible model for a developing people.

Upgraded health services have brought filariasis, leprosy, the yaws, and other grim tropical diseases under control, and improved sanitary facilities are reaching out the to villages to abate the disabilities of intestinal parasites. The infant mortality rate is down and longevity is up in American Samoa. This very month we will begin construction of the American Samoan Tropical Medical Center, and it will provide the finest hospital care in this region of the world. It is being built on a flexibly expansive plan so that research and treatment facilities can be added readily to serve as a

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humanitarian center for all of the people of this region.

Your President wants to pay tribute to you particularly for the way you have providently invested a goodly share of your new earnings in your own economic future. Your own American Samoan Development Corporation has over 1,300 stockholders representing almost every household in the territory, and they have bought more than 25,000 shares in the company. There is no significant non-Samoan investment in it. Yet you have built a multi-million dollar hotel, and forty to fifty service industries have sprung up around it. In both the great luxury hotel and in the satellite businesses the Samoan employees are the owners. The slogan here, "Samoa for the Samoans," is more than a pious ambition, it is a reality; and we are happy to accommodate you and embrace you in our American community.

*how much?*

American Samoa stands as an imposing example of what the United States can and will achieve in the areas of the Pacific entrusted to it. The people of Guam, American citizens all, have developed democratic institutions which parallel the best in our nation. They have begun achievements in the economic area which insure a healthy future for the territory. Through Federal aid, granted as a result of devastating typhoons three years ago, Guam is emerging as a model American community. I know that you are rebuilding a better community here with our disaster aid and your own funds after your big hurricane last January. At the same time, we are recognizing today, in the

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Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, the magnitude of the task before us. Our responsibilities to the Micronesians compel us to encourage their political and economic development at an even faster pace than that which we have achieved in recent years. Your achievements in Samoa provide a goal to which the people of Micronesia can aspire.

Our nation has been fortunate in being able to entrust our stewardship here to the imagination, the tireless drive, and the humanism of your Governor, the Honorable H. Rex Lee. The explosive and enlightened development here is in no small measure a living testament to him. That is why I awarded him a coveted medal this year, The President's Award for Distinguished Federal Civilian Service--given to only five individuals; and that is why later this month Secretary of the Interior Udall will confer on Governor Lee his Department's Distinguished Service Award. Knowing that our American nationals have this leadership available to them here, I must fly on to the world's trouble spots. Until I can return to enjoy fa'a Samoa, I will simply say talofa and tofa.

## TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

In the far-flung islands that comprise the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, the United States has undertaken a serious and sacred responsibility, the responsibility of assisting the 90,000 peoples of Micronesia to move fully into the modern world through helping devise an education system, making use of their resources, and developing those democratic political institutions through which free men can freely govern themselves.

In this endeavor we are fortunate to have the services of William R. Norwood as High Commissioner. As a long-time resident of Hawaii and one who has been an active observer of and participant in the economic and political life of Hawaii, Bill Norwood has developed a sensitivity to the problems of the people of the Pacific Islands and an understanding of their hopes and their aspirations.

The list of needs of the Trust Territory is lengthy and, although much progress has been made in recent years, we still have far to go. We still need more schools to accommodate the young and rapidly growing population. More than half of these people are under the age of 20 and the population is increasing at the rate of almost 4 per cent a year. Since 1963 we have built more than 300 elementary classrooms and established high schools in each of the major districts in place of the single high school of previous years serving the entire territory. However, we still cannot enroll all students who might seek secondary education and we are determined that we shall attack this shortcoming aggressively in the years ahead.

Our health program has not yet met <sup>our</sup> self-imposed goal, health services at least equal to those found in the United States. We need more hospital beds, more medical personnel, more health aides, and we are determined to provide them. In the meantime, new equipment has been installed in several of the hospitals and architectural plans are being drawn for new major hospitals to replace two grossly inadequate structures. The Hawaii State Department of Health and the University of Hawaii's School of Public Health are furnishing assistance in many health fields and a surgical team from Honolulu has performed rehabilitative surgery for victims of a polio epidemic in the Marshalls. This team returns periodically for continuing treatment.

Under Bill Norwood's direction, and with the whole-hearted support of the Administration, we shall quicken the pace of development in the Trust Territory. In addition to recommending increased funds to meet the needs of the Trust Territory, I have authorized the Peace Corps to send volunteers to the territory to augment the programs being devised and carried out by High Commissioner Norwood.

We are equally determined that the Micronesians share fully in and are the direct beneficiaries of these expanded programs. This has always been our objective and I note with pleasure that a Micronesian is serving with distinction as District Administrator in the Marshall Islands and another at Trust Territory Headquarters as Deputy Commissioner for Resources and Development. And as a man who has spent much of his life in legislative halls, I have been struck by the generally competent way in which the Congress of Micronesia has gone about its business. The step of creating this legislative body was taken two years ago by Secretary of the Interior Udall. Members of the Congress have displayed a degree of political maturity that is truly impressive. It, I am certain, will be a positive force in the future development of the islands. Thus the noble



experiment of full self-government which began in the American territory of Guam in 1950 is being applied with significant success in the neighboring islands of the Trust Territory.