

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

Reg # 837062



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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CONFIDENTIAL

DECEMBER 17 1952

My dear Mr. Secretary:

In view of the assumption by the Department of the Navy on January 1, 1953 of responsibility for the administration of the islands of Tinian and Saipan in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, I wish to call to your attention several matters relating to the forthcoming visit to the Trust Territory of the second regular Visiting Mission appointed by the Trusteeship Council of the United Nations. You will recall that in 1950, the Council sent the first regular visiting mission to the trust territories in the Pacific area, including the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. Under the schedule presently followed by the Trusteeship Council, missions are normally despatched to an area once every three years; accordingly, the Council, at the second part of its Eleventh Regular Session, which met recently in New York, approved arrangements for the despatch of the second regular mission to the Pacific area.

The Council decided to invite the Governments of the Dominican Republic, France, Syria, and the United Kingdom to nominate members to compose the mission. The following nominations were subsequently approved by the Council: Mr. Enrique de Marchena (Dominican Republic), Mr. Leon Pignon (France), Mr. Najmuddin Rifai (Syria), and Mr. W.A.C. Mathieson (United Kingdom). Mr. de Marchena was elected Chairman of the visiting mission. In addition to the above members, the mission will be accompanied by members of the United Nations Secretariat, serving as Secretariat for the mission; the designation of the members of the Secretariat has not yet been made but will be communicated to you as soon as it is known.

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The terms of reference under which the visiting mission will carry out its responsibilities are set forth in a resolution adopted by the Trusteeship Council, a copy of which is attached. You will note that the attached resolution refers to several previous resolutions of the General Assembly and the Trusteeship Council; copies of the resolutions referred to are also enclosed for your information. The Council decided that the mission should depart not later than February 15, 1953.

Under

The Honorable
Dan A. Kimball,
Secretary of the Navy.



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Under its present plans the mission will visit the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands first, as it did in 1950, and proceed from there to visit the Trust Territories of Nauru, New Guinea and Western Samoa in that order. The mission has indicated that it plans to arrive at Honolulu on February 17, 1953 and to depart for Guam on February 21, 1953. The mission plans to spend the period from February 21 to March 9, 1953 in the Trust Territory and to depart from Majuro, in the Marshall Islands, for Nauru on March 9.

Various technical and administrative details concerning the mission's visit, particularly with respect to transportation facilities, itinerary and timing, will need to be worked out in the near future by the Departments of Interior, Navy and State in consultation with the mission. I am confident that mutually satisfactory arrangements can be expeditiously worked out by the interested offices of the Departments concerned as soon as detailed planning is possible.

Meanwhile you will recall that it is normally the practice for a representative or representatives of the Administering Authority to accompany the mission during its tour of the Trust Territory. It has been the general practice of other administering authorities to appoint officials with a broad knowledge of the territory and its administration to accompany the mission, and you may wish to give consideration to this aspect of the mission's trip. X

Arrangements will, of course, have to be made with respect to entry permits for members of the mission and the accompanying Secretariat. In the case of the 1950 Visiting Mission, the Department of the Navy was requested to undertake the appropriate security clearance, following which a letter was prepared from the Chief of Naval Operations to each of the members and Secretariat of the Mission which granted permission to visit Guam and the Trust Territory during a specified period. These letters were transmitted by the United States Representative to the United Nations to the Principal Secretary of the Mission for inclusion in the Mission's travel documents. Unless you perceive objection, I suggest that a similar procedure be followed in the case of the forthcoming mission.

Visiting Missions have in the past frequently visited the capitals of the administering authorities following their visit to the trust territories for the purpose of consulting officials engaged in the administration of the trust territories. It is possible that the forthcoming mission may, as did the previous mission, make informal inquiries as to the possibility of such a visit to Washington. In the case of the

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previous mission, the Department, with the concurrence of the Department of the Navy, took the view that a formal invitation to the Mission to visit Washington was not required; however, in response to the informal inquiry of the Mission, it was informed that it would be welcome to stop in Washington on its return from the Pacific area, but that it was felt that such a visit would not be of material value to the mission in examining conditions relating to the Trust Territory since information on the administration of the Territory was fully available at the High Commissioner's headquarters and in the Territory itself. I would propose, if you concur, to make a similar reply should the present mission make a similar inquiry.

Prior to the visit of the first visiting mission to the Trust Territory in 1950, the Department prepared a general background document for the use of administrative officials in the field. A similar document is under preparation in the Department at the present time, and will be transmitted to the Departments of Interior and Navy for consideration and distribution as may be appropriate. It is planned to include in the present document background information of a general character on visiting missions, detailed information as to the appointment, membership, and anticipated activities of the forthcoming mission, biographical sketches of the members of the Mission, and a documentary supplement containing various relevant resolutions of the Trusteeship Council and the General Assembly, together with other documentary references.

In view of the continuing responsibilities of the Department of the Interior with respect to the administration of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, I am also writing to the Secretary of the Interior concerning plans for the Mission. The Department will be glad to consult further with the Departments of the Interior and Navy concerning various aspects of the Mission's plans.

Sincerely yours,

For the Secretary of State:

John D. Hickerson
John D. Hickerson
Assistant Secretary

Enclosures:



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