

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

My dear Mr. Secretary:

Although it will be some time before decisions and agreements can be made concerning the disposition of territory in the Pacific formerly administered by the enemy or concerning the administration of such territory under the United Nations Charter, I believe that studies of administrative problems should begin at once. These are among the problems which I have asked the Secretaries of State, War, and the Navy to consider jointly.

In order to draw upon the long experience of the Department of the Interior in the administration of civil affairs in the United States territories and in dealing with the problems of indigenous peoples in the territories, I should like you to participate with the Secretaries of State, War, and the Navy in the discussion of administrative plans for areas which may remain, or be placed, under United States supervision.



Sincerely yours,

HARRY S. TRUMAN

Hon. Harold L. Ickes,

Secretary of the Interior.

Copy for the Honorable James Forrestal, Secretary of the Navy.