



DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

Department's proposal was only received on  
February 20, 1946. March 6, 1946

My dear Mr. President:

You will recall that at the suggestion of Mr. Ickes you appointed a Cabinet Committee, consisting of the Secretaries of State, War, Navy and Interior on October 20, 1945 to consider the subject of the administration of Pacific Islands and to make a report to you.

An Ad-Hoc Subcommittee representing the four secretaries mentioned above was constituted. My representative on the Subcommittee was Mr. Fred Searls, Jr. Mr. Searls, as Chairman of the Subcommittee, has submitted a report to me dated February 23, 1946, in the following terms:

"At a meeting of the Ad-Hoc Subcommittee of the above Committee held in the Department of State on January 30, 1946 a resolution was passed to submit to your Committee a proposal of the Department of the Interior, received in draft form at the Subcommittee meeting and subsequently withdrawn by the Interior member for correction, together with the Subcommittee's recommendation that no action be taken on the proposal by your Committee until such time as the status and title of the Pacific Islands concerned should be determined. The Interior Department representative voted nay on this resolution.

"Final

The President,

The White House.

Original Retired  
for Preservation



"Final draft of the revised Interior Department's proposal was only received on February 20. It appears to have undergone considerable revision since January 30. However, as Chairman of the Subcommittee, I transmit to you herewith four copies of this proposal with the recommendation of the Subcommittee that no action be taken by your Committee as above stated. I also append copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Subcommittee, to which reference is made above."

The Secretaries of State, War and Navy considered this report at a meeting held on February 28. It was the unanimous view of the three secretaries that no action should be taken in this matter at this time for the reasons stated in Mr. Searls' report.

It was agreed that I should, as Chairman of the Cabinet Committee, transmit this information to you along with a copy of the proposal of the Interior Department which is enclosed.

Faithfully yours,

*James S. Byrnes*

Enclosure:

Copy of memorandum dated Feb. 20, 1946

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