

22 July 1946

MEMORANDUM FOR:

MR. CLIFFORD



Subject: Strategic Areas and Trusteeships in the Pacific.

The conflicting views of the State Department and the Joint Chiefs of Staff with respect to Japanese and Japanese Mandated Islands have been referred to an Ad Hoc Committee composed of representatives of the State, War, and Navy Departments.

It is not expected that the Ad Hoc Committee will make its report to the State-War-Navy Coordinating Committee prior to 1 August.

As soon as the Ad Hoc Committee has reported, the State-War-Navy Coordinating Committee will submit a report which will be promptly forwarded to the President by the State Department. It is very unlikely that this report will reach the President prior to 5 August and it may be as late as 10 or 15 August.

I understand that the President is interested in resolving the conflicting views of the three Departments before the General Assembly of the United Nations convenes in New York in September. I believe that we will have the combined views of the three Departments at least a month before the Assembly convenes and that, should the President inquire, you can inform him that you will make your report to him well before the United Nations September deadline.

For your information, the State-War-Navy Coordinating Committee is composed of Howard Petersen, Assistant Secretary of War, John Sullivan, Under Secretary of the Navy, and James C. Dunn, Assistant Secretary of State. Mr. Dunn has just been nominated as Ambassador to Italy and his successor on the Committee has not yet been named.

The members of the State-War-Navy Coordinating Committee Secretariat are Mr. R. E. Cox for War, Commodore B. L. Austin for Navy and Mr. Alexander Reid for State.

Very respectfully,

GEORGE M. ELSEY