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WASHINGTON SCANS PACIFIC ISLES PLAN

Compromise to Keep U. N. Rule Out of Some Areas Studied by State Department

SERVICES SET ON CONTROL

Want U. S. to Retain Former Japanese Mandates—Return of Ryukyus Is at Issue

By HANSON W. BALDWIN

The future status of the Pacific islands seized from Japan is still a matter of debate between the armed services and the State Department, and no unified Government policy has yet been formed.

The Army and Navy, whose views have been expressed through the Joint Chiefs of Staff, still wish to retain all the former Japanese mandated islands (the Carolines, Marshalls and Marianas) under complete United States sovereignty, but the State Department would like to place them under trusteeship of the United Nations, with the United States as sole trustee.

Under the compromise plan offered by some State Department advisers, the United Nations would have no authority over, or access to, certain strategic areas in the islands that the United States required for bases.

Another point of difference has arisen. The armed services are willing to place the Ryukyus, including Okinawa, under United Nations trusteeship with the United States as sole trustee and with certain areas reserved for military or naval use. Some State Department representatives, however, advocate the return of the Ryukyus, including Okinawa, to Japan.

Command Still Unsettled

Thus the eventual fate of the islands in the Pacific is still uncertain, and no final determination has been made of the confused command situation in that ocean.

For several months the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the War and Navy Departments have been studying the command situation in the Pacific, where administrative and command lines are overlapping and the command is divided, except in Japan, under the Army and the Navy, with Gen. Douglas MacArthur and Admiral John H. Towers as the two commanders.

A compromise solution seems to

be shaping up. General MacArthur has been pressing for the inclusion of the entire Pacific, including all naval forces in it, under his command. The Navy suggested some time ago the division of the area into several smaller theatres. The compromise being studied will probably result in division of the Pacific into two theatres, as it was during the war, with General MacArthur as supreme commander over all military and naval forces in the western Pacific and Admiral Towers supreme commander in the rest of the area.

Towers' Jobs May Be Split

General MacArthur's command would include the Philippines, but whether China would be made a separate theatre is not yet clear.

The stumbling block to final agreement at the moment is the Marianas. The Navy is developing slowly a great naval base at Guam and considers the Marianas an essential part of any naval theatre in the Pacific. General MacArthur holds that the B-29's based in the Marianas have always been considered as a most important part of his occupying and policing forces for Japan and that, therefore, these island bases should be under his command.

If the Pacific is divided into two theatres, the jobs of Commander in Chief Pacific Ocean Areas and Commander in Chief Pacific Fleet, now held by one man, Admiral Towers, may be divided.

