

1945, Honorable Harold L.
Secretary of the Interior
September 12, 1945

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Wrote to the President re the civil administration of the Pacific Islands. Says that with the President's approval he shall ask the Division of Territories and Island Possessions to draft a detailed report for submission to the President as soon as possible.---On 9/11/45 the President wrote to Mr. Tolson saying he has read letter re above islands which are being held as military bases with interest and although he thinks it a little early to discuss the subj. of he will be glad to talk it over with Mr. Tolson at a later date.---On 9/28/45, Abe Fortas, Acting Secy. of Interior wrote to the President saying he has been informed that the President has referred above matter to Secretaries of State, War and Navy and says he hopes that the President will advise these Departments that he (the President) wishes the Interior Department to participate in the discussion of this problem. Encloses draft of letters to them.

On 10/13/45, Secy. Tolson wrote to the President referring further to the above problem, offering suggestion that a joint expert group representing State, War Navy and Interior visit the Pacific Islands for purpose of preparing detailed plan for

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interim administration.---On 10/20/45, the President sent a memo to James F. Byrnes, Secy. of State, Robert F. Patterson, Secy. of War, James Forrestal, Secy. of Navy and Harold L. Ickes, Secy. of Interior advising that as stated at the Cabinet Meeting the 10/21 he is appointing a committee consisting of Secretaries of State, War, Navy and Interior to make a recommendation to the President on problems arising from administration of the Pacific Islands. Says this should be done without delay and we should outline a policy which is satisfactory to all four departments.

On January 5, 1946, James F. Byrnes, Secy. of State wrote to the President, advising that Secy. Patterson is out of town and he himself must be in London the next week. Suggests withdrawing his name, waiting for return of Secy. Patterson or have Under Secy. Acheson call the meeting when Secy. Patterson returns. Gives his views on the problem.---On 1/9/46, the President sent memo to Secy. of State saying re the Interdepartmental Committee on the Administration of the Pacific Islands, he thinks it advisable to have Under Secy. Acheson call meeting as soon as Secy. of War returns.

On 1/18/46, Acting Secy. Sean Acheson sent memo to the President, re President's memo of 1/9/46, advising that a meeting of these representatives was held on Oct. 25, 1945 and they at that time appointed a sub-committee to consider these problems and as soon as this sub-committee submits recommendations and the Secy. of War returns, he shall call a meeting of the four Secretaries' Committee.

The Secretary of the Interior, J. A. Krug, sent the President copy of letter he sent to Hon. George C. Marshall, Secy. of State, dated 9/3/47, re above committee and says this committee has never met, although the sub-committee met on 1/20/46, to make recommendations to the four Secretaries, and the plan was submitted to the President with statement that they thought no action should be taken in the matter until such time as the status of the Pacific Islands had been determined. Says it is his understanding that the President is sending message to Congress requesting authority to accept trusteeship of the former Japanese mandated islands, recently proffered to the U. S. by the United Nations. Due to this, thinks this is the time to get together and outline a policy for the administration of these islands which will be satisfactory to the four departments.