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THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

85-L
Committee
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MAY - 3 1947

My dear Mr. Secretary:

It will be recalled that the President, by memorandum dated October 20, 1945, constituted the Secretaries of State, War, Navy and Interior as a committee to make a recommendation to him on the problems arising from the administration of the Pacific islands and to outline a policy satisfactory to the four Departments. This committee has never met.

An interdepartmental ad hoc subcommittee on administration of the Pacific islands, which was constituted pursuant to the President's instructions, met on January 30, 1946, to make recommendations to the four Secretaries. Thereafter the plan submitted by the Department of the Interior member of the subcommittee was considered by the Secretaries of State, War and Navy and forwarded to the President with the statement that it was their unanimous view that no action should be taken in the matter until such time as the status of the Pacific islands had been determined.

It is my understanding that the President is sending a message to the Congress to request authority to accept trusteeship of the former Japanese mandated islands recently proffered to the United States by the United Nations. In view of that circumstance, it appears that the time has now arrived for us to get together and outline a policy for the administration of these islands which will be satisfactory to our four Departments.

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Sincerely yours,

(Sgd) J. A. Krug

Secretary of the Interior.

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Hon. George C. Marshall, x20

Secretary of State.

cc: The President.

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