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July 3, 1947

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I have today requested the Congress to enact legislation authorizing me to approve on behalf of the United States, the Trusteeship Agreement between the Security Council of the United Nations and the United States of America. The Agreement provides that the Marianas, Caroline, and Marshall Islands, formerly mandated to Japan, shall be placed under the international trusteeship system of the United Nations and administered by the United States. It was approved by the Security Council on April 2, 1947.

On this occasion I should like to reaffirm what I have said on other occasions, that the policy of the United States is to support the United Nations with all its resources as a permanent partnership; this policy has the support of the overwhelming majority of the American people. I should like also to say again that America has long been a symbol of freedom and democratic progress to peoples less favored than we have been and that we must continue to justify their confidence in us by our policies and our acts.

This occasion serves to emphasize the steadfast adherence of the United States to these principles. On presenting formally to the Security Council on February 26, 1947, the terms upon which we would be prepared to place the former Japanese Mandated Islands under international trusteeship, the United States Representative stated:

"It is the profound belief of the Government of the United States and of the American people that the administration of these islands by the United States in accordance with the terms of this ... agreement would contribute both to the maintenance of international peace and security and to the well-being and advancement of the inhabitants of the islands."

At the same time, the favorable action which the Security Council has accorded the United States proposals serves to demonstrate the faith of the United Nations in our pledge to administer the territory in accordance with the terms of the agreement and the provisions of the Charter.

I firmly believe that the United States, by carrying out fully the terms of the agreement, will fulfill the obligations entrusted to it by the United Nations.

