

JUL 17 1947

My dear Mr. Attorney General:

Herewith is a proposed Executive Order, presented by the Secretary of State, entitled "Providing an Interim Administration for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands".

The proposed order recites that the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands has been placed under the trusteeship system established in the Charter of the United Nations by means of a trusteeship agreement approved by the Security Council of the United Nations on April 2, 1947 and by the United States Government on a date - to be inserted therein which will be the date of approval of the enrolled enactment H. J. Res. 233 "Authorizing the President to approve the trusteeship agreement for the Territory of the Pacific Islands" - after due constitutional process; that the United States, under the terms of the agreement, is designated as the administering authority of the trust territory and has assumed obligations for the government thereof; and that it is necessary to establish an interim administration of the trust territory, pending the enactment of appropriate legislation by the Congress of the United States for the future government thereof.

The proposed order terminates the military government in the former Japanese Mandated Islands and delegates authority and responsibility for the civil administration of the trust territory, on an interim basis, to the Secretary of the Navy.

The proposed order provides that the Secretary of the Navy shall, subject to such policies as the President may from time to time prescribe, and, where appropriate, in collaboration with other departments or agencies of the federal government, carry out the obligations which the

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United States, as administering authority of the trust territory, has assumed under the terms of the agreement and the Charter of the United Nations: Provided, however, that the authority granted to the United States under Article 13 of the agreement to close any areas for security reasons and to determine the extent to which Articles 87 and 88 of the Charter of the United Nations shall be applicable to such closed areas shall be exercised jointly by the Secretary of the Navy and the Secretary of State: and Provided, further, that all relations between departments or agencies of the federal government and appropriate organs of the United Nations with respect to the trust territory shall be conducted through the Secretary of State.

The proposed order further provides that, subject to subsequent modification, it shall be effective as of the date of approval thereof and until a designation is made of the civilian department or agency which is to have permanent responsibility for the government of the trust territory.

The original of the draft of press release, copy enclosed, relative to the approval by the President of the enrolled enactment (H. J. Res. 233) and of the proposed Executive Order has been forwarded to the White House this date with the enrolled enactment.

The Secretary of State advises that the proposed Executive Order and the press release have the concurrence of the War, Navy and Interior Departments. As you will note, the Secretary of State, in his letter dated July 16, 1947, copy enclosed, recommending prompt approval of the enrolled enactment, recommends that the proposed Executive Order be approved concurrently therewith.

The State Department has informally requested that your action upon the proposed order be expedited so that it may reach the White House as soon as possible.

The proposed Executive Order has my approval.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) James E. Webb

The Honorable

The Attorney General

Director

Enclosures

