

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
BUREAU OF THE BUDGET
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

FEB 10 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Administration of Guam, Samoa, and Pacific
Islands under United States Trusteeship.

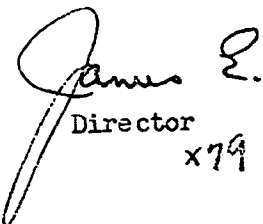

On June 19, 1947, you transmitted to the Congress a report from the Secretary of State, indicating a course of action which the Secretaries of State, Army, Navy and Interior agreed should be followed with respect to the administration of Guam, Samoa, and the Pacific islands under United States trusteeship. Your communication further emphasized your view that full enjoyment of civil rights and the greatest practicable measure of self-government should be provided for the inhabitants of the islands.

Preparation of organic acts to accomplish these aims is almost complete. In accordance with the agreement mentioned above, drafts of such acts dealing with Samoa and the trust islands will be presented to the Congress by the Departments of State, Navy, and Interior in the near future. These drafts, as well as the one previously submitted for Guam, provide that administration shall be under a civilian agency to be designated by the President.

I am submitting herewith for your signature letters to the four Secretaries concerned indicating that it is your intention to designate the Department of the Interior as the civilian agency to exercise general supervision over the administration of Guam, Samoa, and the trust islands under any organic acts passed by the Congress. The letters also indicate that such designation is subject to further study and determination of the character and structure of long-range government of all territories and possessions of the United States.

These letters will make possible planning by the Department of Interior preparatory to transfer of administration from the Navy which the Secretaries agreed should be effected at the earliest practicable date.

I recommend that this letter be sent to the Secretaries of State, Army, Navy, and Interior.


Director
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Attachments (4)