

*Copy sent to Budget*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

My dear Mr. Secretary:

In a letter of June 19, 1947, to the Congress transmitting a letter from the Secretary of State dated June 18, 1947, I indicated a course of action which you and the Secretaries of State, Army and Interior agreed should be followed with respect to the administration of Guam, Samoa, and the Pacific islands under United States trusteeship.

It is my intention, upon approval of organic acts for the aforementioned islands, to designate the Department of the Interior as the civilian agency with general supervision over civil administration of those islands. Assumption by the Department of such responsibility, of course, will await transfer from the Department of the Navy which should be effected at the earliest practicable date after approval of the organic acts. Designation of the Department of the Interior will be without prejudice to study and determination, based upon further study of long-range plans for administration of United States territories and possessions.

I am advising you of my intention to make this designation in order that you may expedite preparatory planning for an orderly transition to civil government and for speedy achievement of the aims of this Government with respect to its territories as expressed in the aforesaid communication to the Congress and in the recent Message on the State of the Union.

Sincerely yours,

(S) HARRY S. TRUMAN

The Honorable

The Secretary of the Navy

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*JW*