

In reply refer to Initials
and No.

Op22/flf.
Serial 233P22

NAVY DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

COPY



26 FEB 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR OPO2:

Subject: Petitions and Resolutions from American Samoa and
Guam; Status of.

1. AMERICAN SAMOA

In April 1945, an assembly of Samoans resolved to petition the Governor for U.S. citizenship and for an organic act. The resolutions were referred to the Fono of American Samoa (the advisory body) at its annual session in November 1945. The 1945 Fono was unready to act and deferred the matter to the next session. The 1946 Fono appointed a drafting committee which drafted a petition for U.S. citizenship, and an organic act providing for continuation of the island government under supervision of the Navy Department. This petition was completed in March 1947 and was forwarded to the Congress on 11 April 1947.

On 23 October 1947, the General Assembly of American Samoa comprising the high chiefs, chiefs, orators and heads of families, adopted a resolution petitioning for continuation of the Navy's administration and asking for a bi-cameral legislature. This petition was forwarded to the Congress on 24 November 1947. The 1947 session of the Fono ratified this petition.

On 17 February 1948 the General Assembly of American Samoa adopted a resolution petitioning that action on the Organic Acts now pending before the Congress be deferred for ten years or more and that the Navy administration be continued. This petition is being transmitted to the President and the Congress.

2. GUAM

On 4 January 1947 the Guam Congress adopted a resolution petitioning for U.S. citizenship and an organic act. This was presented to the Governor the latter part of March and forwarded to the President, the United States Congress and to several cabinet officers on 1 May 1947.

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On 5 July 1947 the Guam Congress adopted a resolution petitioning for continuation of the island government under the Navy's administration. The Governor returned the resolution to the Congress on the ground of "no quorum". On 6 September 1947, the Guam Congress re-passed the resolution and it was forwarded to the President and the United States Congress on 24 September 1947.

On 4 October 1947, the Guam Congress adopted a resolution expressing confidence in the present Governor, Rear Admiral Pownall, and requested that his tenure of office be extended for an additional two years.

Very respectfully,

/s/ W. F. Jennings

W. F. JENNINGS.

