

THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
WASHINGTON

Filed by
DR. STEELMAN

2/2/49

THE WHITE HOUSE
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Dear Mr. President:

Your letter of February 11, 1948 informed me of your intention to pursue a course of action which finds conformity in the mutual agreement of the Secretaries of State, Interior, Army and Navy concerning the assumption by a civilian agency of the responsibility for administering Guam, American Samoa and the islands of the Trust Territory.

Subsequent to the date of the agreement certain events have transpired which, I believe, you would wish brought to your attention.

On October 23, 1947, the General Assembly of American Samoa adopted a resolution petitioning for continuation of U. S. Naval administration of that territory. This resolution was later ratified by the Samoan Fono. The petition was forwarded to the Congress on November 24, 1947.

On February 17, 1948, the General Assembly of American Samoa unanimously adopted a second resolution petitioning that any and all legislation pertaining to Samoan affairs already presented or to be presented or in process of preparation for eventual presentation to the U. S. Congress be not considered for ten years or more, and that the present U. S. Naval administration be continued. This petition was recently forwarded to you and to the Congress.

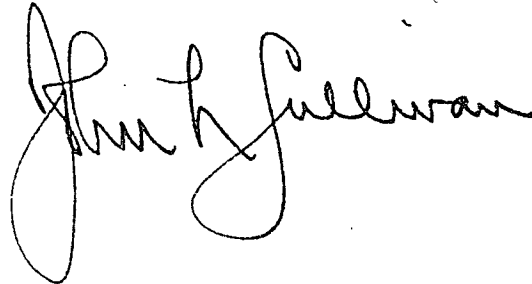
On September 6, 1947, the Guam Congress adopted a resolution petitioning for continuation of the Island Government under the administration of the Department of the Navy. This petition was forwarded to you and to the U. S. Congress on September 24, 1947.

The Navy Department does not seek to withdraw from its position in agreement with the recommendation that the administration of Guam, American Samoa and the Trust Territory be



transferred to a civilian agency as soon as practicable. I feel that it is incumbent upon me, however, to call your attention to the fact that an early transfer would now be contrary to the wishes of the Guamanian and Samoan peoples. Since this involves the principle of self-determination, you may probably wish to give it due weight in arriving at a final decision with respect to any change in the administrative responsibility for these Islands.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John H. Fullinwider". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

The President,

The White House.



A resolution of the Guam Congress; to the Committee on Public Lands:

"Whereas the people of Guam through their official and duly elected representatives, the Guam Congress, are cognizant and appreciative of the Navy Department's endorsement of the Hopkins committee report regarding Guam's need of becoming permanently affiliated with the mother country by according its inhabitants American citizenship and providing also, its people with civil rights by the enactment of an organic law; and

"Whereas the Navy Department, throughout the 49 years of administration of the island of Guam, has enjoyed the confidence and friendship of the people of Guam; and

"Whereas the report that the Navy Department in harmony with other departments of the Government of the United States has officially gone on record as endorsing and approving the Hopkins committee report and has strengthened the friendship, good will, and confidence which the people of Guam have generally maintained with the Department of the Navy; and

"Whereas the duly elected representatives of the people of Guam, the Guam Congress, have maintained that the Navy Department is deserving of commendation for its interest and efforts for the betterment and general welfare of the people of Guam, despite the overdue extension and recognition of the people's faithfulness and desire to become a component part of the American Republic; and

"Whereas the people of Guam, through their official representatives, having thoroughly familiarized themselves with that part of the Hopkins committee report which recommends immediate granting of citizenship, an enactment of an organic act and a civil government for Guam, fully recognize and concur with that committee's recommendation that the Navy Department, through long years of experience and administration of the government of Guam, is well equipped to administer Guam for the interim, by virtue of its facilities and understanding of the economic situation and present position of the people of Guam in their efforts toward rehabilitation: Therefore, be it

"Resolved by both houses of congress, the house of assembly and the house of council, in joint session assembled, That in the light of present economic conditions on the island and by reason of the economic plight of the people of Guam as they seek to adjust their economic position and to rehabilitate themselves and be in a position to compete economically with the outside world not affected by the disaster brought about by the recent war, petition the President of the United States and the Congress of the United States, that the Navy Department continue to have the administrative responsibility of Guam, on an interim basis, pending the transfer to a civilian agency at the earliest possible date to be determined by the President of the United States, such date being, it is hoped, when the island has been completely rehabilitated and the economy of the island fully restored; be it further

"Resolved, That the Governor of Guam, the official representative of the United States, be requested to transmit this resolution via the Navy Department to the President of the United States and the Congress of the United States and that copies of this resolution be furnished the Navy Department, Department of the Interior, State Department, Labor Department, and other Government agencies concerned.

"Done this 6th day of September A.D. 1947."