

April 23, 1940

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. STEELMAN

From: David H. Stowe

In accordance with your instructions, I met with the representatives of the Secretary of State, Secretary of the Army, Secretary of the Navy, Secretary of the Interior, and the Director of the Bureau of the Budget, to discuss the administration of Guam, Samoa and Pacific Trust Islands.

On a number of occasions, the last being February 11 of this year, the President indicated by letter to the respective Secretaries that he desired early enactment of organic legislation for Guam, Samoa and the Trust Islands. He further stated that upon the passage of organic legislation, he expected to transfer the administration of the Islands from the Department of the Navy to the Department of the Interior.

Our meeting was held for the purpose of determining what effect, if any, the petitions transmitted to the President by the Secretary of the Navy from the citizens of Samoa and from the Congress of Guam would have upon the announced plan of the President.

A review of the legislative situation revealed that legislation for Guam was sent to the Congress last year and legislation pertaining to the Trust Islands is now in the process of inter-agency clearance while legislation for Samoa is tied up in the Navy Department. There is little hope that any organic legislation can be passed this year.

However, in view of the above-mentioned petitions, the group unanimously agreed

- (a) The President's program for Guam, Samoa and the Trust Islands should not be altered.
- (b) Organic legislation for Samoa and the Trust Islands should be presented to the end that all proposals should be placed before the Congress during this session.



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- (c) Upon the presentation of the legislative proposals, passage of pending concurrent resolutions, providing for a Congressional Committee to study and make recommendations with respect to organic legislation for the Islands should be sought.

There is attached a letter to the Secretary of the Navy indicating these decisions and requesting him to expedite clearance of the Samoan legislation. It is suggested that copies be sent to the other participating agencies. *Gene 4-*

Following is a list of the persons who attended the meeting called to consider the administration of Guam and the Trust Islands:

State:

Jas. F. Green, Acting Chief  
Division of Dependent Area Affairs

Miss Ruth Bacon, Office of Far  
Eastern Affairs

Army:

Lt. Col. J. D. Lawlor

Navy:

Capt. Wm. F. Jennings  
Capt. Hammock

Interior:

Jas. P. Davis, Director, Division of  
Territories and Island Possessions

Rex Lee

Budget:

Jack Fobes

The meeting was held at 10:30 a. m., April 15, 1948.

