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Memorandum of Understanding between the Navy Department
and the Department of the Interior Regarding the Transfer
of Administrative Responsibility for American Samoa

1. The President should designate the future civilian Governor for American Samoa. Interior's selection for civilian Governor should be nominated by the Secretary of the Navy through the Secretary of Defense.
2. The civilian Governor should assume office on or about July 1, 1950, and should be responsible to the Secretary of the Navy from the date he assumes office until the transfer date.
3. Responsibility for the Government of American Samoa should be transferred from Navy to Interior on or about July 1, 1951, and from that date forward the Governor should be responsible to the Secretary of the Interior.
4. The civilian Governor, with Interior's assistance, should immediately after his designation commence recruiting civilians to replace naval personnel. The Navy Department will process the appointments and arrange for the transportation of civilian replacements until the transfer date.
5. The Navy Department will, after consultation with the Department of the Interior, include in its 1951 budget estimates the amounts required to cover costs incidental to the transfer, including the salaries and transportation of civilian replacements.
6. Naval military personnel on duty with the Government of American Samoa on July 1, 1951, will, except as otherwise agreed upon in individual cases, be detached from that duty on the transfer date, or earlier if requested by the Governor, provided that the foregoing shall not affect normal rotation of duty in individual cases. If any services are required to be performed by naval units to the Government of American Samoa after July 1, 1951, such services will be the subject of separate agreements.
7. Naval civilian personnel whom the Governor does not wish to retain will, by July 1, 1951, be reassigned to other duty or dismissed, as the Navy determines.
8. Specific arrangements with respect to the transfer of property now owned by the United States and used by the Naval Government of American Samoa will be the subject of separate agreements. These arrangements will be consistent with policies relating to property transfer set forth in the draft organic act for American Samoa recommended by the Interior and Navy Departments to the 81st Congress.

9. The two Departments will cooperate closely with each other at each stage of the transfer process, making available to one another information, facilities, and personal and other services to the fullest extent practicable in order to ensure an orderly transfer.

August 31, 1949