



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
DIVISION OF TERRITORIES AND ISLAND POSSESSIONS
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

Lady

2/26

Personal

Dear Phileo:

I am in Hawaii enroute to the Trust Territory with a group ~~of~~ to study the sea and air transportation problem in the area.

Lawrence Coleman, President of the American Samoa Civic Assn. in Honolulu, is writing to the President requesting ^{NAVY} transportation for a group ^{up to} of 30 Samoans in Honolulu to participate in ceremonies in Samoa commemorating the 50th year under the American flag. The group was invited by the Governor of Samoa at the request of the For. Coleman asked CINCPAC for transportation on the Navy plane that flies weekly from Honolulu to Samoa. CINCPAC said he might provide space ~~for~~ for one representative of the Honolulu Assn, but that there was normally only space for about 8 revenue passengers each flight. Coleman has decided to ask the President & Sec Navy to authorize ^{NAVY} transportation for a maximum of 30 Samoans on a space available basis. The ceremonies are for April 17-19. Representatives of the Honolulu group could start leaving early in March if transportation



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were made available without cost. Though Samoa Civic Assn represents 2000 Samoans in Hawaii, the Samoans ~~are~~ ^{have a} hard time making ends meet and the Assn does not have funds to finance the trip.

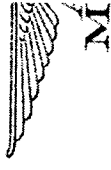
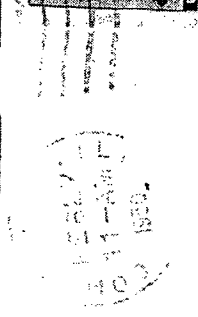
I believe the request merits careful consideration. Samoa Civic Assn has young, intelligent leadership. It has influence in American Samoa; develops support for and understanding of democratic government in Samoa. ~~The~~ Participation by a representative group of Hawaii Samoans in the 50th American flag ceremony is fitting and would strengthen the bonds between the two groups. It would seem reasonable that, if space is available on a ^{way} plane going to Samoa, it not be allowed to go to waste with this request outstanding. I thought you might wish to keep an eye out for the letter. It would doubtless come to you in any event.

Will be back in about 4 or 5 weeks. Best wishes.

Sincerely yours
Emil

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