

"I have great faith in the ability of the Samoans and the Trust Territory islanders to develop self-governing institutions out of their own traditional cultural patterns. The Department will fully support this advancement as well as the efforts to protect and develop the land and other resources of the islanders."

The text of Secretary Chapman's letter to Secretary Matthews follows:

"My dear Mr. Secretary:

"Now that arrangements have been completed for the transfer of administrative responsibility for American Samoa and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands from the Navy Department to the Department of the Interior on July 1, I wish to express this Department's deep appreciation for the valuable assistance rendered by the Navy Department in planning and carrying out this transfer. We are grateful not only to you and those on your staff in Washington who have cooperated wholeheartedly at every step, but also to the naval officers and men in these territories, without whose assistance an orderly transfer would have been impossible.

"The Navy has reason to be proud of its record in these territories. It has faithfully protected the lands of the Samoans, protected their health, provided them with increasing educational opportunities, and laid the basis for their exercising a greater measure of local self-government. The Navy's administration of the Trust Territory has been commended by the Trusteeship Council of the United Nations and has therefore been a credit to our country. Much remains to be done in both areas, and I assure you and the naval personnel who have devoted themselves to the welfare of the peoples concerned that this Department and the territorial officials will maintain the high standards of public service which have characterized the Navy's administration of these areas.

"The Navy deserves special commendation for its unstinting cooperation and assistance in carrying out the transfer of jurisdiction over these areas from naval to civilian administration. The policy underlying the transfer is fundamental in our democratic tradition and form of government. The readiness with which the Navy has supported and carried out this policy provides further concrete evidence of the keen awareness among the military agencies and personnel concerned of their role in our democracy.

"I hope you will convey to the members of your Department and to the naval personnel in the Pacific this sincere expression of appreciation for a job well done. Our agencies will continue to have closely related interests in the area, and I assure you that representatives of this Department both in Washington and the field will cooperate in every possible way toward the fulfillment of the naval mission in the Pacific."

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