

January 22, 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Recommendation of Personal Rank
of Ambassador for Elbert D. Thomas,
High Commissioner for the Trust
Territory of the Pacific Islands

Reference is made to your recent appointment of Elbert D. Thomas as High Commissioner for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

In addition to the duties which Mr. Thomas will perform for the Departments of the Navy and Interior as High Commissioner for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, he will be required, from time to time, to carry out special negotiations of a diplomatic nature with representatives of other governments administering trust territories in the area. It will also be necessary for him to act as Special Representative to occasional meetings of the Trusteeship Council of the United Nations where he will be required to negotiate, under instructions from the Department of State, with foreign delegations on behalf of the United States.

It is believed that Mr. Thomas' negotiations with representatives of other governments would be greatly facilitated if he held comparable diplomatic rank. The Department recommends, therefore, with the concurrence of the Departments of the Navy and Interior, that, in his capacity as High Commissioner for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Mr. Thomas be given the personal rank of Ambassador.

There is attached a draft letter addressed to Mr. Thomas in the capacity indicated if this recommendation is approved.



DEAN ACHESON

Enclosure:

X 20

1/22/51 Draft letter.
Approved
Harry S. Truman -K

(DRAFT)

Senator

My dear Mr. Thomas:

In connection with your recent appointment as High Commissioner for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, *I am pleased* [it gives me pleasure] to give you the personal rank of Ambassador.

Very sincerely yours,

I am sure you will make a great contribution to our Pacific Policy. Pacific meaning both peace and the Far East!



The Honorable
Elbert D. Thomas,
High Commissioner for the Trust
Territory of the Pacific Islands.