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FILED BY  
MR. HOPKINS  
JAN 30 1951

January 29, 1951



My dear Admiral Radford:

On January 4, 1951, I appointed Mr. Elbert D. Thomas as your successor in the office of High Commissioner of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. This step was the initial one in a program for the replacement of Naval personnel by civilian personnel in that area, which will culminate on July 1, 1951, when responsibility for the administration of the Trust Territory will be transferred from the Navy Department to the Department of the Interior. This appointment and the eventual transfer are in consonance with my expressed wish, based on sound democratic principles, to establish wherever possible civilian government over civilian populations.

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I consider that this first and most important step toward the desired goal could not have been initiated had it not been for the outstanding manner in which the administration of the Trust Territory has been conducted during your tenure of office as High Commissioner. I note with favor your adherence to the terms of the Trusteeship Agreement with the United Nations, and the diligent efforts which have been put forth to achieve full compliance with that governing directive in the international sphere. I am also aware that, in all fields and at all levels, the administration has, under your guidance, been directed along lines which have tended in every way to facilitate the projected transfer of administrative responsibilities to a civilian agency of the government.

Your accomplishments in all phases of government in the Trust Territory are also a source of gratification to me. I note particularly the progress which has been made in the development of self-governing communities, in furtherance of the basic tenets of democracy; the encouragement which has been given to indigenous participation in commerce and industry and the development of natural resources; the wise and sympathetic consideration which has been given to social problems throughout the area; the continued expansion of the educational opportunities and facilities which have been made available to the people; and the conspicuous progress which has been made in the comprehensive program for public health.

It is my opinion that these, and all other factors which indicate the commendable manner in which you discharged your responsibilities as High Commissioner, reflect great credit, not only upon yourself, but upon the Navy Department, the Department of Defense, and, in the eyes of the world, the government of the United States.



Sincerely yours,

(HST) HARRY S. TRUMAN

Admiral Arthur W. Radford, USN  
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