



HIGH COMMISSIONER  
TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS  
3845 Kilauea Ave.  
Honolulu 16, Hawaii

THE WHITE HOUSE

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RECEIVED

August 27, 1951



My dear President Truman:

Since coming I have stayed with the details of the transfer. In May we had 461 Navy personnel in our organization. Today there are only five. The transfer part of our task is about completed. We have not avoided all friction, but I consider what I thought an impossible task at the beginning, a real accomplishment. Unity has been my aim at all times. I have had but one thought and that was to build a sound foundation on which future activities may rest. Our great problems are nature's destructive ability, war waste, distance and transportation.

I have met scores of Filipinos and Japanese in all walks of life. The Philippine-American Agreement, if handled properly in the Senate, will restore confidence and lend to stability. The Australian-New Zealand Agreement will place upon America the contributing responsibility of developing further the British Commonwealth. In a sense, it makes America a guarantor of the Act of Westminster. Indonesia is struggling. All this may affect us, despite the fact that the place of the Trust Territory in the scheme of things is not understood or appreciated. We are in reality a government of responsibility without power. Any moment we may be in the very center of unforeseeable activity.

The real key to keeping peace in the Pacific is still Japan. We have won the minds of the Japanese, but sad to relate, not their hearts. No one has had the genius for that yet. Mr. President, please see that the person who will represent America in Japan, when that nation steps into its new place in the world, is one whom the Japanese not only can see as a representative of our strength and power, but also as a representative of American good intent. The trust of a real Oriental is still placed in morals. The learning of the ages has not been washed out of Japanese hearts by the leadership of Matsuoka and Tojo. The gift of discernment is in the people and they will follow right action.

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President Truman

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This note is not sent to add to your great problems, but to let you know that way out here there are those who honestly appreciate your leadership and who have faith in your ultimate success. American leadership is the only hope there is for millions and millions of right-thinking people in the world. If she fails, where can they turn?

You have, as you always have had, my prayers.



Most sincerely,

*Elbert*

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.