



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
OFFICE OF TERRITORIES

*[Handwritten signature]*  
MAR 31 1952

Memorandum

To: The Secretary (Through Assistant Secretary Doty)

From: James F. Davis

Subject: Suggestions of topics to be discussed with High Commissioner Elbert D. Thomas

On the basis of Mr. Sady's observations recently in the Trust Territory, you may wish to discuss the following with High Commissioner Thomas when you and Assistant Secretary Doty meet with him:

1. Segregated clubs. In each of the six district centers, our stateside employees have taken over former Navy officers' clubs (government buildings) and are operating them as private clubs. Although islanders are invited occasionally to club functions as guests, none are club members. Mr. Sady discussed this with Jim McConnell and was assured that steps would be taken to remedy this situation. The solution would appear to be in establishing qualifications for membership that would not exclude native doctors, teachers and other islanders in professional positions from becoming members.

2. Inequality under law.

(a) Liquor. While statesiders are not prohibited from drinking in the Trust Territory, the islanders are prohibited from importing intoxicating liquor (except at Saipan where Saipanese can drink beer). In several districts the islanders have requested that this discrimination be discontinued. Some form of licensing should be developed which could be equally applicable to statesiders and islanders.

(b) Taxes. Certain taxes in the Trust Territory are being collected from the islanders, but not from all statesiders. These include the head tax, tax on beer in the Northern Marianas, and tax on cigarettes. Taxes should be equally applied and enforced.

Except for the above, the High Commissioner should be complimented on the unusually fine job being done throughout the Trust Territory despite wholly inadequate funds.

(Sgd) James P. Davis

James P. Davis  
Director