

DENNISON: The Secretaries themselves were members of this committee. Our Under Secretary, Sullivan, really represented Forrestal. Forrestal didn't go to very many meetings. They had a lot of subcommittees. It was quite a complicated setup and they handled some very important problems. One of them that was of great interest to the Navy was what to do with the ex-Japanese mandate. The State Department wanted to give them back to the natives, practically the entire Navy, and certainly the War Department wanted to annex them. Well, neither one of those solutions was any good.

So, this was one of the problems thrown into this committee, and it turned out that the Navy took the lead in it and I actually drafted the trusteeship agreement myself with the help of a couple of young Reserve officers who were lawyers in my shop, establishing, if approved, a security trusteeship in the United Nations under the Security Council. This is the only such trusteeship in existence. It gave us what we wanted. It gave us authority to close off certain parts of the area if we wanted to, a number of privileges that wouldn't pertain under a trusteeship under the General Assembly. And in the end the Army sort of

dropped out because we seemed to know what we were doing. The State Department, which had vigorously opposed this whole idea, was finally convinced and they changed course 180 degrees, and held briefings with newsmen and various groups. Ralph Bunche was one of the principal supporters. I was ordered, along with some of the State Department people, to go up and brief Warren Austin and to attend the meeting of the Security Council where this was to be considered.

We'd expected a veto from Soviet Russia. Instead of that they supported the whole idea and our main problem came from the British, but Austin stood fast. He finally said that he'd like to remind the Council of one thing, and that was that we captured the islands, our flag was flying over them, and if they wouldn't accept our proposal, which was in full accord with the treaty, provided for in the charter, then we would consider annexing the islands. So they voted and it passed.

I went to sea and after a year the President accepted me as his Naval Aide.

HESS: Why was Mr. Forrestal chosen as Secretary of the Navy?

DENNISON: Well, I have no idea what element went into his selection. He was well-known and was a capable business man and he seemed to be a capable executive, and I don't