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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

February 9, 1953

THE WHITE HOUSE

FEB 10 9 29 AM '53

RECEIVED

Hon. Sherman Adams
Assistant to the President
Washington 25, D. C.

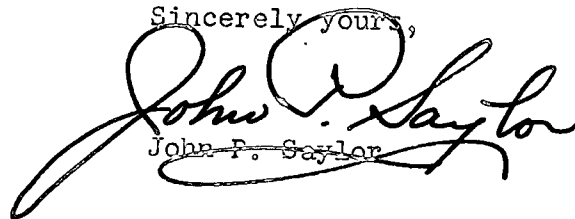
My dear Mr. Adams:

An Executive Communication No. 373 dated January 17, 1953, was sent to the House of Representatives transmitting a draft of a proposed bill entitled "A bill to provide a government for the trust territory of the Pacific Islands, and for other purposes." Duplicate copies of the Committee Print of Executive Communication No. 373 are enclosed for your use. This draft of a bill was sent to me with a suggestion that I might care to introduce it, inasmuch as I am designated as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Territories and Insular Possessions.

The draft of the bill was prepared under the previous administration, and for that reason I think it may save time and shorten any necessary Congressional hearings if you have an opportunity to review it before it is introduced as a bill in the Congress.

It would be appreciated if you will, at your earliest convenience, give me your views concerning the draft legislation and the objectives it seeks to accomplish. If changes are needed, I shall be pleased to receive your recommendations.

Sincerely yours,


John F. Saylor

SIR: Enclosed herewith is a draft of a proposed bill to provide a government for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, and for other purposes. I request that this proposed bill be referred to the appropriate committee for consideration, and I recommend that it be enacted.

By joint resolution dated July 18, 1947 (61 Stat. 397), the Congress authorized the President to approve the Trusteeship Agreement between the United States and the Security Council of the United Nations for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (formerly the Japanese mandated islands). The trust territory comprises 97 islands and atolls scattered over some 3,000,000 square miles of ocean, an area approximately the same as continental United States. It has a total land area of 687 square miles and a population of approximately 56,000 people. Responsibility for the civil administration of the trust territory was delegated to the Secretary of the Navy on an interim basis by Executive Order No. 9875 of July 18, 1947. Pursuant to Executive Order No. 10265, dated June 29, 1951, responsibility for civil administration of the area was transferred to the Secretary of the Interior effective July 1, 1951.

The Trusteeship Agreement for the trust territory designates the United States as administering authority of the trust territory, and confers upon the administering authority full powers of administration, legislation, and jurisdiction over the territory subject to the provisions of the agreement. Under the terms of the Trusteeship Agreement the United States assumed obligations to foster the development of such political institutions as are suited to the trust territory; to develop the participation of the people of the trust territory in their government; to give due recognition to the customs of the people of the trust territory in providing a system of law for the territory; to promote the economic advancement and self-sufficiency of the people of the trust territory by regulating the use of their natural resources, and by encouraging the development of the fisheries, agriculture, and industries of the area; to protect the people of the trust territory against the loss of their lands and resources; to improve the means of