



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

June 9, 1953

Memorandum to Mr. Charles F. Willis, Jr.
Special Assistant to Governor Sherman Adams
The White House

From: Assistant Secretary Orme Lewis

Subject: Frank E. Midkiff, High Commissioner of the Trust Territory
of the Pacific Islands.

It is earnestly requested that Frank E. Midkiff, High Commissioner of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, be given the personal rank of Ambassador.

It is of the greatest importance that Mr. Midkiff be given this rank in that

(1) It has been the past practice to give this rank to the High Commissioner of the Trust Territory and if Mr. Midkiff is not given the personal rank of Ambassador, it will materially weaken his position as High Commissioner of the Trust Territory. This would be especially true since Mr. Midkiff has already been appointed and failure to confer such a high rank upon him after his appointment would cause him and the position to "lose face".

(2) Mr. Midkiff will appear before the Trusteeship Council of the United Nations as a member of the United States delegation in the capacity of special representative from the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. In such a position he will be dealing directly with foreign delegations in behalf of the United States.

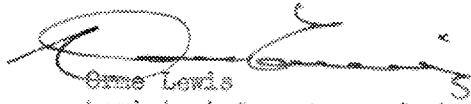
(3) As High Commissioner of the Trust Territory, Mr. Midkiff will have frequent dealings with officials of other governments in connection with the administration of the Trust Territory. In order to effectively represent the United States in such dealings with the other governments, he must have the prestige of the rank of Ambassador.

(4) Mr. Midkiff in carrying out his functions as High Commissioner of the Trust Territory is required to visit other nations and independent territories in the Pacific area. Since the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands is outside the customs and immigration area of the United States, a diplomatic passport will greatly facilitate frequent travel between the Trust Territory, Guam, Hawaii, and the continental United States.



The giving of this rank will in no way increase the compensation to Mr. Midkiff or create any additional financial burden upon the Government. Since this rank gives a great personal prestige to the individual and such prestige is most necessary for the position held by Mr. Midkiff, it is most earnestly requested that he be given the personal rank of Ambassador.

Mr. Midkiff will appear before the Trusteeship Council on June 24, 25 and 26 and therefore, it is requested that this matter be given immediate attention.



Orme Lewis
Assistant Secretary of the Interior

