



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

C
O
P
Y

June 20, 1953

My dear Mr. Secretary:

There have been informal contacts between this Department and representatives of the Department of State and the White House with a view toward recommending to the President that he confer upon the Honorable Frank E. Midkiff, High Commissioner of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, the personal rank of Ambassador. The White House has now suggested that it would be appropriate to ask you to present this recommendation formally to the President.

In my opinion, it would be of great assistance to the High Commissioner in discharging his responsibilities on behalf of the United States Government to have the personal rank of Ambassador, as was held by his predecessor. As you know, High Commissioner Midkiff will appear before the Trusteeship Council of the United Nations on June 24 as Special Representative of the United States. In this capacity, he will be called upon to answer questions placed by representatives of other member governments in the Council as to United States policies and programs in the Trust Territory. Both in formal Council sessions and in informal contacts with delegations of other countries, the personal rank of Ambassador would measurably assist him in effectively representing the interests of the United States as they relate to the administration of the Trust Territory. It would also lend added prestige to his Office in meetings with members of visiting missions of the Trusteeship Council which make periodic inspections in the Trust Territory.

The High Commissioner is often required to visit other countries and dependent territories in the Pacific. Ambassadorial rank would assist him in his contacts with officials of other governments and a diplomatic passport would expedite his entry into other areas and reentry into the United States.

For the above reasons and in view of the special relationship of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands to the United States under the terms of the trusteeship agreement with the United Nations, I hope you will agree that High Commissioner Midkiff should be given the personal rank of



Ambassador and that you will take steps as soon as possible to place this recommendation before the President.

Sincerely yours,

Sgd. Douglas McKay
Secretary of the Interior

Hon. John Foster Dulles

Secretary of State

