



*Personal*

September 19, 1956.

THE REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
TO THE  
UNITED NATIONS



*JE*

Dear Mr. President:

1. Herewith a suggestion for a statement by you as follows:

"If re-elected I intend to send a message to the next Congress recommending a study of the rate of progress towards self-government and independence which our few remaining American dependent territories can be expected to make in the future. I refer to the Virgin Islands, Guam, Samoa, and the Trustee Islands in the Pacific. The purpose would be to enable Congress to pass an Act setting final target dates for the establishment of self-government or independence -- possibly along the lines of the system followed by Puerto Rico. This study would not, of course, include Alaska or Hawaii, which are under active Congressional consideration for admission to the Union."

2. Comment:

A. This policy should not distress the Pentagon because we can make the same kind of base agreements with each of these islands as they become self-governing as we have today with the Philippines if they should opt for complete independence.

B. It would make a real hit here at home and would have a magnificent effect abroad -- except among the so-called colonial powers who really would be in no position to object to something that you said about our own United States possessions.

C. Developments in the Arab world make one wonder sometimes whether it might not go the way of Communist China and therefore, gestures which enhance our prestige in those countries are of real value.

3. You could also point out that during the first ten years of the United Nations 600,000,000 people have emerged into independence and express the hope that within the next ten years definite time limits will be set "to mark the progress of the people in the other non-self-governing areas of the world towards self-government".

I have worded this so that it would not mean the setting of dates for actual self-government, but dates "to mark the progress" which could be made.

If any of the above interests you, I will be delighted to expand and can, of course, call at any time convenient to you.

With warm and respectful regard

Faithfully yours,

*Henry Cabot Lodge*  
Henry Cabot Lodge

The President  
The White House

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