

Photocopied at the Eisenhower Library
Lorne Kennedy
Assistant to the Secretary
Room 5152
D-0



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

For Release AUGUST 9, 1957

SECRETARY SEATON LEAVES AUGUST 11 ON PACIFIC INSPECTION TRIP

Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton will leave Sunday, August 11, on an inspection trip to the Territory of Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa and the Pacific Trust Territory, it was announced today.

Secretary Seaton will be the first Interior Secretary to visit the Pacific outposts of Guam, American Samoa, and the Pacific Trust Territory since they were placed under the jurisdiction of the Department in 1950 and 1951.

During the visit of about a month, Secretary Seaton will consult with Federal and local officials in the areas to get a first hand report on Department programs and responsibilities in the region.

In February the Secretary visited the Territories of Hawaii and Alaska and in December 1956 the Virgin Islands.

Secretary Seaton is scheduled to leave Washington, D. C., at noon on August 11 and arrive in Honolulu on August 12. He will depart the next day for American Samoa.

On August 17 he will leave Samoa for an inspection tour of the Trust Territory islands which will include visits to Kwajalein on August 18, Majuro August 19, Penape August 20, and Truk August 22. On August 24 he will arrive for a three day stay on Guam.

While in the Majuro area, the Secretary will visit the atoll in the Marshall Islands to which the Rongelap people recently returned after an absence of three years. The Rongelap people were exposed to fallout during the nuclear experiments at the United States Atomic Energy Commission's Eniwetok Proving Grounds in March 1954, and were removed from their home atoll. In May the AEC advised the Department that the people could be returned and they were resettled on the atoll late in June.

Using Guam as a base, Secretary Seaton will also visit the Eastern Caroline Islands of Yap and Koror. He will leave Guam on September 1 to make a six day tour of the Hawaiian Islands.

The Secretary is scheduled to leave Honolulu on September 7 and arrive back in Washington on September 8.

Among those accompanying the Secretary will be Director of Territories Anthony T. Lausi and A. M. Edwards, associate solicitor.

x x x