



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR INFORMATION SERVICE

OFFICE OF TERRITORIES



For Release SEPTEMBER 12, 1959

SYLVESTER I. OLSON NAMED ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF TERRITORIES

Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton today announced the appointment of Sylvester I. Olson of Yakima, Washington, as Assistant Director of the Office of Territories. The appointment is effective immediately. Olson has been serving as a consultant to the Director of the Office of Territories since March 2.

The Office of Territories of the Department of the Interior has Federal supervision over all United States Territories and possessions and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, which consists of the former mandated Marshall, Mariana and Caroline Islands administered under a Trusteeship Agreement with the United Nations. The principal U. S. Territories are Guam, Virgin Islands and American Samoa.

Prior to coming with the Department of the Interior, Olson served five years with the International Cooperation Administration (ICA) and its predecessor, the Foreign Operations Administration, engaged in administering the mutual security program abroad. His first assignment was as legal consultant in Korea in 1954, following which he served until 1956 as Director of the United States Operations Mission to Portugal where he supervised the closing out of the foreign aid program in that country. His most recent tour of duty with ICA was as Deputy Director of the United States Operations Mission to Japan.

A member of the Yakima law firm of Brown, Olson and Clarke from 1948 to 1954, Olson is presently on leave of absence from the law firm of Brown, Hovis and Cockrill of Yakima. He is a member of the Washington State and American Bar Associations.

Born at Herman, Minnesota, in 1907, Olson received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Minnesota in 1929 and his Bachelor of Laws degree from the same university in 1931. He practiced law in St. Paul and South St. Paul, Minnesota, from 1931 to 1948.

Olson is married to the former Virginia Colbert of Seattle, Washington. The Olsons with their children, Karen, 7, and Eric, 4, will make their new home at 1408 Sheridan Street, NW., Washington, D. C.

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