



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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SECRETARY SEATON TO MAKE INSPECTION TOUR OF PACIFIC AREAS FOR WHICH INTERIOR HAS RESPONSIBILITY

Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton will make an inspection tour of the island areas in the Pacific that are under the jurisdiction of the Department, it was announced today. He will leave Washington on October 11, and return on November 8. The areas are Guam, American Samoa, and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

In the course of the trip, Secretary Seaton will meet with the local leaders and Government officials to discuss matters and problems of concern to the area. In the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Mr. Seaton will visit the headquarters of each of its six Districts.

Guam became a possession of the United States following the Spanish-American War in 1898, and until 1950, was under the administration of the Navy Department. The Organic Act for Guam was enacted by the Congress and approved on August 14, 1950. Since that time the Department of the Interior has been responsible for the administration of the territory.

American Samoa was acquired by cession following the tripartite convention among the United States, Great Britain, and Germany in 1899. It remained under Naval administration until 1951 when Executive Order 10264 transferred to the Department of the Interior administrative responsibility for the area.

The Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands are the former Japanese-mandated islands which were retaken by the U. S. Armed Forces during World War II, and remained under Naval administration until 1951. In 1947 the area was placed under the United Nations Trusteeship System in accordance with the terms of an agreement with the Security Council approved by the United States Congress. In 1951 the administrative responsibility for the area was transferred from the Department of the Navy to the Department of the Interior.

In August and September 1957, Secretary Seaton made a similar inspection which culminated in Honolulu, Hawaii, with the inauguration of William F. Quinn as Territorial Governor of Hawaii.

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