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Dear Mr. Eagle:

The following comments are in response to your letter of June 6, 1956 requesting the views of this Department on the Hawaiian Statehood bill, H. R. 6177.

The Department does not consider that this question has a marked bearing on our foreign relations. But insofar as the grant of statehood to Hawaii is concerned, the effects would be beneficial to the conduct of United States foreign policy in that termination of its status as a dependency of the United States would be consistent with American policy as subscribed to in Chapter XI of the United Nations Charter and in the Pacific Charter of September 8, 1954.

As a concrete example of American policy toward dependent areas, Hawaiian statehood would tend to strengthen the United States position in the United Nations and would be of value in our relations with those countries now represented in the United Nations which have recently achieved self-government or independence.

With specific reference to the definition of territorial limits contained in Section One of the bill, it is our understanding that such territorial limits are consistent with recognized United States sovereignty in the Pacific area and that the proposed exclusion of Palmyra Island from the jurisdiction of Hawaii in no way affects United States sovereignty over that island.

Sincerely yours,

For the Secretary of State:

Robert C. Hill
Assistant Secretary

The Honorable,
Clair Engle, Chairman,
Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
House of Representatives.

Sincerely yours,

For the Secretary of State:

Robert C. Hill
Assistant Secretary

The Honorable,
Clair Engle, Chairman,
Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
House of Representatives.

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