

CONFIDENTIAL

JAPANESE PEACE SETTLEMENT:  
DISPOSITION OF JAPANESE ISLANDS.

C 271754

1. One of the principal questions awaiting the Japanese Peace Conference is the disposition of certain Japanese islands in the Pacific. The particular islands are those which were under unrestricted Japanese ownership before the Second World War, namely: the Kuriles, the southern half of Sakhalin, the Tsushima and Goto Islands (between Japan and Korea), Quelpart Island (south of Korea), the Ryukyu or Loochoo Islands, Formosa and the Pescadores, the Bonins and the Volcanoes and other small islands. Although the future disposition of some of the islands may be ascertained in advance (Wiz. the promise of Formosa and the Pescadores to China by the Cairo Declaration of December 1, 1943 - Annex I), the final disposition of the islands will be the responsibility of those participating in the Japanese Peace Conference.
2. The recent action of the Security Council in approving the United States Trusteeship Agreement for the former Japanese mandated Islands (allocated to Japan by the provisions of the Treaty of Versailles, 1919, - Annex 11), has established a precedent for the administration and control of strategic islands or island groups in the Pacific. A brief review of the salient points which were discussed in the passing of this Trusteeship Agreement by the Security Council, may assist in the formulation of views on points likely to be considered in the disposition of the aforementioned islands during the Peace Conference.
3. On February 26, 1947, the United States Representative on the Security Council, Mr. Warren R. Austin, submitted to the Security Council for its approval in accordance with Article 83 of the Charter, the text of the United States draft Trusteeship Agreement for the former Japanese mandated islands. (Annex. III). This action of the United States Government was doubtless influenced by the public statement of the Soviet Government that it did not object to this draft Trusteeship Agreement being considered by the Security Council as the islands had been won by the blood and sacrifice of American forces (a desired precedent for Russian territorial claims elsewhere). The Security Council began formal discussions of the Trusteeship Agreement on March 7, with subsequent debates on March 12, 17, 28 and April 2.
4. The Australian Representative, supported by the United Kingdom, proposed that states not members of the Security Council who were active belligerents in the war against Japan should have an opportunity to discuss the terms of trusteeship. The interested states were defined as those who had been included as members of the Far Eastern Commission. This proposal was approved by the Security Council after communications were received from the Governments of India and New Zealand requesting, under Article 31 of the Charter, that they be allowed to participate. Accordingly, the Governments of Canada, India, the Netherlands, New Zealand and the Republic of the Philippines were invited to be represented at subsequent discussions in the Security Council on the United States draft Trusteeship Agreement.