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August 15, 1943.

Dear Douglas:

As you know, Mrs. Roosevelt is leaving for the Southwest Pacific and I am delighted that she will be able to see you. She is, of course, anxious to see everything, but I leave it wholly to your discretion as to where she should go and where she should not go. She is especially anxious to see Guadalcanal and at this moment it looks like a pretty safe place to visit.

I have told her that I am leaving the decision wholly up to the Area Commanders, not only in regard to Guadalcanal, but other places as well. I doubt, of course, at the present writing, whether she should go to New Georgia or to Funafuti.

Also, I would not have you let her go to any place which would interfere in any way with current military or naval operations -- in other words, the war comes first.

I think that Mrs. Roosevelt's visit to places where we have military or naval personnel will help the general morale -- because Mrs. Roosevelt has been visiting and will continue to visit the various hospitals in this country, especially on the West Coast where she meets returning sick or wounded personnel from the Southwest Pacific.

You have been doing a grand job and we are all proud of you.

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Let her have any personal messages you would care to have her bring on her return.

All the good luck in the world.

Sincerely yours,

General Douglas MacArthur.

P.S. I was glad to get your note in regard to a statement on the Philippines. I put the gist of it into the broadcast which is being sent today. I think there is no need for immediate additional legislation, because the present Act grants them their independence and if we clean up in the Philippines before 1946 the Congress will doubtless anticipate the date.