



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

Harry McKittrick
Bob 03
Rm 133
[Signature]

March 21, 1962

file
Trust Territories
General

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Enclosed find a memorandum from the Director of Territories on transfer of the Salinas District from Navy to Interior.

You will note that the draft Executive Order is now in the Bureau of the Budget.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
John A. Carver, Jr.
Assistant Secretary

Mr. Charles Johnson
National Security Council
Executive Office Building
Washington 25, D. C.

Enclosure

19-423914

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Transfer of Saipan District of the Trust Territory
from the Navy to the Department of the Interior

The United Nations Trusteeship Council, which annually reviews our administration of the Trust Territory, has been critical of the divided administration and has on numerous occasions recommended that the Territory be unified under a single civilian administration. The 1961 Visiting Mission of the UN, which toured the Trust Territory in February and March, made this a major issue in its report to the Secretary-General. By an exchange of correspondence in June 1961, the Navy and Interior Departments formally agreed to the transfer of the Saipan District (Northern Marianas) to Interior. During the June 1961 session of the Trusteeship Council, High Commissioner Goding advised the Council that "this matter has been receiving most careful attention at the highest level of our Government and I can now further say that the Departments concerned are agreed in principle that the administration of the Territory should be unified. The detailed steps for bringing about this unified administration are now in process of being worked out."

On January 12, 1962, High Commissioner Goding and Admiral Coyer issued a joint press release in Guam announcing July 1, 1962, as the date of the transfer. In the same announcement, the High Commissioner also designated the island of Saipan as the first provisional capital of the Trust Territory.

Details of the transfer are now being worked out between representatives of Navy and Interior. Informal discussions here indicated that the High Commissioner's staff could begin to move into the Saipan facilities on or shortly after March 1.

A draft Executive Order transferring administration of the Northern Marianas from Navy to Interior and revoking the previous Executive Orders designating Navy administration was submitted to the Bureau of the Budget on February 26. In the Department's letter to submit, it was recommended that the order be signed prior to May 31, 1962, the opening date of the next Trusteeship Council session.

Richard W. Taitano

March 20, 1962