



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

APR 25 1962

Memorandum

To: The White House
From: Secretary of the Interior

Subject: Protest by Governor of Guam against Navy security restrictions

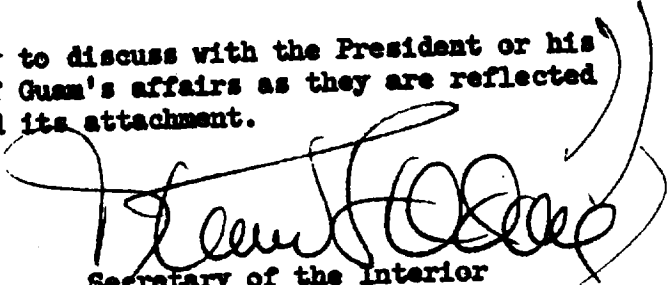
As requested in your route slip dated April 19, 1962, there is attached a draft reply for Presidential signature to the Governor of Guam's letter of April 16, also enclosed.

The subject matter of this letter has been in negotiation between this Department and the Department of the Navy practically since Governor Daniel took office a year ago. In response to our urging, Secretary Connally removed the offending restrictions as they applied to United States citizens effective September 14, 1961. At the Governor's insistence, complete cancellation was urged upon the Navy in January of this year. Secretary Korth's reply is reflected in the Governor's letter to the Director, Office of Territories, copy of which he furnished the President and is also returned herewith.

The pertinent Executive Orders vest authority in the Secretary of the Navy to assure the security of Guam. They may well be obsolete as alleged by the Governor but this Department has felt compelled to respect the judgment of the Secretary of the Navy as to matters of military security. We have given every proper type of support to the Governor's views but are obviously not in a position to overrule the agency vested with clear executive authority, nor are we in possession of evidence which would justify asking the President to do so.

Information has come to us indicating that Congressional inquiries have been addressed to the Secretary of Defense on this issue and that the Bureau of the Budget is looking into the matter on behalf of the President. We assume that these actions are responsive to resolutions of the Guam legislature. Representatives of the Department have also discussed security matters in the Pacific islands with National Security Council staff members who have indicated an interest in and sympathy for the desire to lift any unnecessary restrictions. Hence the references in the second paragraph of the draft letter.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss with the President or his designee some of the aspects of Guam's affairs as they are reflected in Governor Daniel's letter and its attachment.


Secretary of the Interior

Enclosures

May 3, 1962

Mr. Pearson has talked with
arren Beaty re the above.
John Carver of Interior is to meet
with Navy officials + recommendations
are then to be submitted to the
White House.