

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
BUREAU OF THE BUDGET
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

JAN 29 1963

Honorable Francis E. Walter
House of Representatives
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Walter:

This is in reply to your letter of last fall to Mr. Bell, relating to Executive Order No. 11045, which discontinued the Guam Island Naval Defensive Sea Area and the Guam Island Naval Airspace Reservation.

Your letter expressed the understanding that, contrary to the statement in a White House press release that the Executive Order was recommended by the Secretaries of State, Defense, and the Interior, the Department of Defense had submitted an adverse recommendation to the Bureau of the Budget on March 2, 1962.

A letter of March 2, 1962, addressed to the Director of the Bureau of the Budget and signed for the Secretary of the Navy by W. S. Sampson, Captain, U.S.N., Deputy Chief, Office of Legislative Affairs, stated that the Department of the Navy, on behalf of the Department of Defense, objected to the issuance of the order. Subsequently, however, the position of the Department of Defense was set forth in a memorandum of August 15, 1962, signed by Mr. Roswell L. Gilpatric, the Deputy Secretary of Defense. Mr. Gilpatric's memorandum, a copy of which is in our file, contains the following statement:

The Department of Defense interposes no objection to the rescission of Executive Order 8683, February 14, 1941. As you know on Guam the entire natural harbor available for shipping is within the Naval Base and commercial air operations are conducted at the Naval Air Station. It is understood that a rescission of Executive Order 8683 would not affect the authority of the commanding officer or other appropriate commander to control entry into or passage through any base, station or other installation or area, including port and harbor facilities under Army, Navy or Air Force control. It is the responsibility of the Department of the Navy, however, to make appropriate arrangements for the use of harbor and air station facilities by commercial carriers.

I regret the delay in replying to your letter, and I trust the information set forth above will satisfy your purposes.

Sincerely yours,

(signed) Kermit Gordon

Director