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Serial 7517

UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET
AND PACIFIC OCEAN AREAS
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

23 JUL 1946

R-E-S-T-R-I-C-T-E-D

From: Commander in Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet.
To: Commander MARIANAS.
Subject: TINIAN, Transfer of Island Command and Military Government Functions to Saipan.

References: (a) ComMarianas ser 7708 of 18 June 1946.
(b) Cincpc 03024 of July.
(c) ComMarianas des 650635 of July.
(d) Cincpac-Cincpoa ser 52855 of 12 Dec. 1945.
(e) Cincpac des 182317 of June.
(f) CNO 121550 passed as Cincpac 132352.

1. Reference (a) described the decreased scope of Naval and Army activities on Tinian and recommended, first, that Tinian should be thrown open to agricultural development, and secondly, that the Island Command and the Military Government Unit of Tinian be disestablished and that these functions be assumed by the Island Commander, Saipan. It was further requested that a definite policy for Tinian, from both economic and military standpoints, be promulgated as soon as possible. Reference (b) requested ComMarianas to comment on the feasibility of utilizing the inhabitants of other Marianas islands, including Guam, for truck farming on Tinian. Reference (c) was ComMarianas reply and stated that only a few applications for Tinian would be forthcoming and recommended that natives of Jap mandated islands having a population of less than 1000 be allowed to resettle on Tinian.

2. Guidance as to economic policy to be followed on Tinian is furnished in reference (d). It is not considered that the time has yet arrived when modification of the existing restrictions upon U. S. or alien investments would serve the best interests of the island. Moreover, it is extremely doubtful that such outside capital could be attracted to the island in view of the fact that no permanent transfer of land titles can be made until the ultimate sovereignty of the area has been determined.

3. The present cattle-breeding program under the auspices of the United States Commercial Company should be developed and expanded.

4. Those Guamanians who might desire to homestead on Tinian to engage in farming, and who can be spared without detriment to native and governmental needs of Guam itself, should be

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permitted to do so, and the same applies to the Chamorros and Carolinians now residing on Saipan. Particularly should the Rotanese be encouraged to migrate to Tinian and develop the farm-lands there. Rehabilitation of Rota has not progressed to an appreciable degree and the reallocation of the Chamorros now residing thereon should result in an improved standard of living for them.

5. There is no objection to the re-settlement on Tinian by Carolinians from sparsely settled and isolated islands where such resettlement is positively desired by the natives and would be of benefit to them.

6. The return to the Bonin Islands of former inhabitants is limited by Joint Chiefs of Staff directive to descendants of the early American and European settlers only. It is not deemed advisable to permit the settlement of Tinian by Bonin Islanders of Japanese ancestry, who are now in Japan.

7. Reference (c) directed that the Military Government Unit, Tinian, be decommissioned and that, in order to provide continuity, a naval officer on Tinian be assigned additional duty as Chief Military Government Officer. Since, at the present time, a naval officer is acting as interim island commander, the above duties should be assumed by him. Cincpac does not desire to raise, at this time, the matter of the disestablishment of IsCom, Tinian.

8. The military policy, from the Navy's standpoint, is the implementation of Post War Plan No. 2; consistent therewith the use of land areas not now developed for military installations can be utilized in aiding the economy of any resident natives.


J. H. TOWERS.