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Navy No. 3245
 c/o Fleet Post Office
 San Francisco, Calif.

U.S. NAVAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT UNIT
 SAIPAN, M. I.

28 October 1946

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From: Officer in Charge Military Government detachment Bonin Islands.
 To: The Commander, Marianas.
 Via: (1) Military Government Officer, Saipan.
 (2) The Island Commander, Saipan.

Subject: Bonin Islands Repatriation 4-26 Oct 1946; report on.

Reference: (a) Commander Marianas orders serial T-919 dtd 3 Oct. 1946.

Enclosures: (A) Loading List.
 (B) Passenger List.
 (C) Medical Report.
 (D) Island Organization.
 (E) Charts of Chichi and Haha Jima.
 (F) Repatriation Article from Nippon Times. 9 Oct. 1946.

Subject report is presented as follows: (1) The Log; (2) The Islands; (3) The People; (4) Their Material Needs; (5) Recommendations.

1. The Log.

4 Oct.- In compliance with Reference (a) LCI #1067 with PC #1546 as escort vessel, departed Guam for Bonins via Saipan at 1300. Aboard LCI were Comdr. Hagenbuckle, Officer in charge of Military Government detachment, 3 Bonin Island repatriates from Guam, 10 hogs, 8 chickens and two dogs.

5 Oct. - Arrived Saipan 1100. Reported to IsCom Saipan. Began loading supplies at 1300. (See Enclosure (A) Loading List.) Lt.(jg) M.G. Polka, (MC) USNR of U.S.N.M.G. Hospital #202 and 8 Chamorran laborers joined detachment. Departed Saipan for Bonins at 1800.

8 Oct. - Arrived Chichi Jima at 1940. Moored for night in harbor. Found island completely deserted.

9 Oct. - LCI berthed along seaplane ramp for unloading, all wharves, and docks having been damaged beyond use. Unloading Jeep proved a very difficult and precarious operation. Almost lost vehicle over the side, along with several men, when improvised hoist snapped.

10-16 Oct. - Crews of both ships divided into working party, watch, and liberty sections. Working party went ashore for assigned jobs, watch section remained aboard, liberty section explored island, gathered fruit, fished and went swimming. The following work was accomplished: supplies moved to island living quarters (1/2 mile) by small boat salvaged from beach, Jeep, and push-carts; houses and surrounding areas cleaned; debris on beach piled and burned; heads and shower baths built; water wells cleaned out and drainage ditches cleared; laundry machine put into operation;

ENCLOSURE (A)

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attempts to repair motors, generators, and vehicles were unsuccessful. Inspection was made of roads, power plants, military installations, caves, wharves, storehouses, etc. The air strip across the harbor was inspected and judged unfit for use because of soft earth. About every other day during this period a PBV, DC3, or B17 circled at low altitude over the island. They were probably from Iwo Jima.

17 Oct. - Jap destroyer "Keyaki" arrived at 0740 from Uraga, Japan, with 120 repatriates and their belongings aboard. She was in extremely dirty, rusty, and foul-smelling condition. Repatriates were sprayed with DDT powder before debarking. We used "Keyaki" power boat to move people and supplies ashore. (See Enclosure (B), Passenger List.) Repatriates moved into living quarters and established community kitchen.

18 Oct. - Dr. Polka conducted thorough medical examination of all repatriates. (See Enclosure (C) Medical Report.)

19 Oct. - "Keyaki" departed for Guam at 0530. An Island "Governing Council," comprised of the 6 leading male islanders, was formed for the purpose of coordinating and administering all family and community interests. Island organization, plans, problems, and future needs were discussed. (See Enclosure (D), Island Organization.)

20 Oct. - Engine housing on LCI broke, deferring trip to Haha Jima by 24 hours. Damaged engine was removed and ship made operable at reduced speed.

21 Oct. - LCI departed for Haha Jima at 0900 with group of Islanders. Provisions and area investigated. Returned to Chichi Jima at 1830.

22 Oct. - Brief farewell ceremony ashore, all islanders in attendance. An American flag, gift of LCI, was presented to the Council and colors raised. Islanders were told that they are now under the protection of this flag. Departed for Saipan at 1030 bringing with us Mr. Jerry Savory, a young Bonin Islander selected for medical training at Guam, a 5 year old boy whose back injury is to be treated at Military Government Hospital #202, and his father, who is to be examined for possible tuberculosis.

24 Oct. - About 1600 PC 1546 blinked that she was leaving formation and proceeding to Saipan at best speed.

25 Oct. - LCI 1067 arrived entrance to Saipan Harbor 1820. Anchored outside harbor for the night, docked following morning.

26 Oct. - Reported IsCom Saipan at 0930.

2. The Islands.

The Bonin Islands are semi-tropical, mountainous, fertile, and of great natural beauty. The entire island is honey-combed with caves and gun emplacements.

The harbor is spacious, deep, well-protected, and easy of en-

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trance and exit. It appears excellent for seaplane use and has three good moorings for large vessels. (See Enclosure (E) Chart.) All wharves are badly damaged by bombing and strafing. It is possible for an LST to approach one wharf head-on, drop ramp, and discharge cargo. All beaches and shore areas are littered with oil drums, heavy debris, and wreckage. Six large vessels, including a Jap destroyer and a merchant ship, are sunk or beached in the harbor but do not obstruct navigation.

All buildings, power plants, and installations are completely demolished except two substantial houses and 8 quonset huts left by the marine. These are now occupied by the repatriates.. "Yankee Town," a group of some 20 wooden shacks, still stands, reeking of dampness and over-run with roaches. It was our intention to burn these shacks but the islanders requested delay until lumber could be salvaged. The request was granted. There are many drums of Jap aviation gasoline scattered about in dumps. Much of this has been ruined by rust and water seepage. The good drums will be salvaged and moved to convenient caves by the Islanders. There is probable salvage value in some boats, trucks, tools, and materials lying around, but their use cannot be assured.

A net-work of roads covers the island. They are basically very well constructed and drained and at present passable by Jeep except where wash-outs and bombings have occurred. We were unable to penetrate the island more than a mile or two from the harbor area because of road blocks. Abull-dozer, equipped with #7 blade, would be very effective in repairing these roads.

Bananas, papayas, grape-fruit, oranges and sugar cane grow abundantly. Vegetables, yet to be planted, will also do well. However, as a result of the highly successful American siege and starve-out tactics of 1944 the hungry Japs denuded the island of every edible thing. Even snails and rodents were scarcer than expected while the harbor fish have not yet recovered from the intense underwater bombings they received. All live-stock and game have been killed. Only two goats and several wild dogs and cats were seen. The replenishment of live-stock and game at this time would assure a badly-needed meat supply.

Fishing is the basic industry and is carried on in the waters immediately surrounding the islands and 20 to 30 miles beyond. Tuna, bonita, skip jack, darts and occasionally whales, are the main catches. Sea turtles weighing up to 500 pounds come ashore in great numbers in the spring to lay their eggs. Their market value is high in Japan. The fishing industry was well developed under Japanese rule. A refrigeration ship called twice a month taking aboard fish and fresh vegetables in exchange for manufactured articles from the mainland.

Haha Jima is similar to Chichi Jima in formation and contour and is more favorable for agricultural development. Okimura Harbor is small but deep. An estimated 300 tons of provisions are stored there. Perhaps 30% has been spoiled by the weather. The rest should be removed to Chichi Jima as soon as possible.

3. The People.

The people are a mixture of American, British, Portugese, Spanish,

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Polynesian, and Japanese blood. Most of the adults speak excellent English. They are intelligent, cultured, and refined. American traits have been surprisingly preserved. There is a strong Jap strain among the younger children who do not speak English and are quite oriental in appearance. All repatriates appeared undernourished and worn out but their morale is high and they are very happy to be back in their home islands. The Savory family, predominantly American in heritage and the most numerous, is the natural leader of the group. All profess the protestant faith. They are concerned about the education and character development of their children and would heartily welcome a medical missionary and some teaching in English, arithmetic, history, handicrafts and music. The islanders were evacuated to Japan in June 1944 where they were harshly treated, being obliged to work 12 hours a day in munition factories for two yen (forty cents) per diem, some of which was withheld for food. Their general health should rapidly improve under the more favorable living conditions of the Islands.

4. Material Needs

At a meeting of the Governing Council on 19 October, the following needs were stated by the members:

- Fishing:** #28 double cotton thread line
brass and copper wire 1/8 or 1/4 "
light sail cloth for canoes
Paint - grey, copper, white lead, linseed oil, brushes
brass screws 1, 2, and 3"
meat grinders, type "Sweden" sizes #3 and #5
Power Boat
(They have enough lead, wire, steel, and rope.)
- Farming:**
bulldozer-to clear land and roads.
trucks- to haul personnel, gear, and produce.
disc harrow, hoes, rakes, scythes, files, sprayers,
pitch forks, and rubber hose.
Seed-Irish potatoes, Indian corn, Beauty tomatoes, onions,
garlic, lettuce, spinach, beans.
- Live Stock:**
goats, hogs, cattle, rabbits, ducks, chickens, turkey,
geese, deer, pheasant, quail (no horses or sheep.)
- Construction:**
cement, lumber, roofing, soldering materials, blow torch,
screening, bedding.
- Boat Repair:**
#8 canvas, butcher knives, sail needles and palm,
Hemp twine, Kerosene oil.
- Education:**
books, paper, pencils, ink, typewriter, maps, blackboard, chalk.
- Home Life:**
needles and thread, machine thread, candles, lamps,

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pictures, magazines, cloth materials, thimbles,
cigarettes, pipes, tobacco, musical instruments,
art materials.

Remarks: Present food supplies, including those on Haha Jima are estimated to last four to five months.

5. Recommendations.

The following recommendations are submitted:

1. That the entire Bonin Group be placed under the jurisdiction of U.S. Naval Military Government Saipan.
2. That an LST, with LCVP or power boat aboard, be dispatched at an early date to the Islands with as many of the requested supplies as possible, and that this ship be used for the transportation of provisions from Haha to Chichi Jima. Estimated duration of stay - five (5) days. During this time a bulldozer with qualified operator could accomplish all necessary work ashore.
3. That a quarterly trip to the islands be planned, bringing needed supplies, and that more frequent trips by seaplane be made for the purpose of inspection and for medical and dental assistance.
4. That a Protestant Missionary Society be invited to send to the Islands a medical missionary and family. This has been urgently requested by the Island Council.
5. That a well-qualified Military Government officer be sent to the Island to assist in the organization of community life and in the development of the Island economy, based on democratic principles and in keeping with national and Military Government policy. That an educational officer accompany him for the purpose of establishing an educational program, and the both remain until their missions are reasonably sure of success.
6. That the fishing industry be re-established as early as practicable. The present colony cannot progress beyond a bare subsistence level unless opportunity is provided for the exporting of Island products, chiefly fish. This will involve the opening of a suitable market in Japan, shipping facilities, and cooperation of army authorities in Japan.
7. That colonists from other Pacific Islands, preferably Polynesia, who are capable fishermen and farmers, be encouraged to migrate to the Bonins. The present colony cannot be expected to survive and grow without the infusion of new people. Cross-cousin marriages within the group have already reached the saturation point. If the Japanese are permitted to return to the islands we must expect a rapid absorption of the existing American and European traits into the Japanese culture. This was almost an accomplished fact just prior to the war when more than 3,000 Japanese inhabited the islands and were in complete control.

V. B. WAGENBUCKLE
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Comdr., USNE.

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DESCRIPTION OF ARTICLE	QUANTITY DELIVERED	UNIT PRICE	EXTENSION
JEEP	1	200.00	200.00
TRAILER	1	50.00	50.00
GASOLINE	50 gals.	.10	5.00
LANTERNS	12	4.35	52.20
FLASHLIGHTS	4	.54	2.16
BATTERIES	16	.06	.96
AXES, PICK	4	.88	3.52
SPADES	4		N.C.
SHOVELS	4		N.C.
BARs, CROW	4	1.57	6.28
SAW, HAND	4	1.88	7.52
HAMMERS, CLAW	4	.41	1.64
AXES	4	.60	2.40
NAILS, ASSORTED	60 lbs.		
BUCKETS, GALVANIZED	25	.54	13.50
RICE	5400 lbs.	.09	486.00
FLOUR	2700 lbs.	.04	108.00
BEANS	1100 lbs.	.09	99.00
SALT, TABLE	300 lbs.	.01	3.00
SUGAR, GRAIN	180 lbs.	.05	9.00
SALAD OIL	36 gals.	1.33	61.18
LARD, SUBSTITUTE	96 lbs.	.17	16.32
MILK, EVAPORATED	3900 lbs.	.11	429.00
SOAP POWDER	972 lbs.	.04	38.88
BRUSHES, TOOTH,	144	.20	28.80
PASTE, TOOTH, COLGATE	144	.25	36.00
SOAP, TOILET	1440	.07	100.80
TROUSERS, GREEN	500 pr.	1.90	N.C.
CLOTH,	1000 yds.		N.C.
FILM, #620	6 rolls		N.C.
SHELLS, SHOTGUN, GAUGE #6	10 boxs		N.C.
PAPER, TOILET	1200 rolls	.03	N.C.
PEPSI COLA	59 cases		N.C.
FUEL OIL, DIESEL	12,000 gals.		N.C.
CAMERA, METALIST	1		N.C.

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Bonin Islands
19 October 1946

UNITED STATES NAVAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT

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1. The following men are delegated to serve as a governing council to regulate and control all civilian activities on the Bonin Islands:

- Wilson Savory - Agriculture
- Samuel Savory - Fishing
- Samon Savory - Live Stock
- Frank Gonzales - Education and Public Welfare
- Richard Washington - Housing and Construction
- Grover C. Gilley - Reconditioning of Vessels

2. All civilians residing on the Bonin Islands will abide by the regulations and decisions of the above council which become immediately effective and will remain in force until further notice.

3. The following men are appointed as patrolmen to assist the council in the execution of its regulations and in the maintenance of law and order:

Jerry Savory
Roderick Webb

4. The governing council will convene at regular intervals and a record of its proceedings will be preserved.

V. B. HAGENBUCKLE.
Comdr., USNR.
USNMG, SAIPAN, M.I.

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Island Regulations

Bonin Islands
19 October 1946

REGULATIONS OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

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1. All persons are prohibited from leaving the prescribed area until further notice.
2. All persons are strictly prohibited from entering caves.
3. All the persons are strictly prohibited from touching fruit trees, bananas, papayas, melon patches, and sugar cane.

By Order of:

The Governing Council

Notice for Fishermen:

UNITED STATES NAVAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT, Islands
SAIPAN 19 October 1946

21 October 1946

To Whom it May Concern:

This is to advise that civilians of American and European ancestry have been repatriated to the Bonin Islands and are permitted to operate their small vessels within the area of the islands.

V. B. HAGENBUCKLE.
Comdr., USNR.
(for) USNMG, Saipan, M.I.

ENCLOSURE "D"

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NIPPON TIMES

COLORFUL BONIN ISLANDERS RETURN HOME THIS MONTH

Yokohama Oct 9th - Life is tranquil again in the Bonin Islands. And the Bonin Islanders, over a hundred of whom live in the Tokyo-Yokohama area, are going home this month. In 1944 these people descendants of purposeful colonists and reportedly also of ship-wrecked mariners and chance voyagers, were forcibly removed from their island home and taken to Japan to be used as laborers. (Pay 2 yen or 40 cents daily - Hours 7 A.M. to 7 P.M.)

It turned out to be twelve hours of labor daily white-haired and aging Wilson Savory said yesterday. Patriarch of his group, Savory is an interpreter for U.S. Armed Forces in Yokohama. For his work in a Japanese factory he was paid two yen daily part of which was taken for food.

Bonin means "Without Man" - The name of his home islands, Bonin means literally "Without Man." These mild climated bits of land rising from the sea just 615 miles south of Yokohama were virtually without men until 1840. In that year Nathaniel Savory, Massachusetts ancestor of the present Savory clan, along with a few Europeans and other Americans, made a settlement.

Isolated in the Pacific, the little colony grew slowly. Pirates paid unwelcome visits from time to time. "When I was a boy," said Savory, "My father told me that pirates had buried gold beneath a tree but no extensive search was made. During the war an American bomb dropped near the roots of the old tree. The crater was found to be dotted with old \$25 American gold pieces. Japanese soldiers took them away as souvenirs.

Perry visited Islands - Commodore Perry dropped in one day in 1853 and on departing left a gift of cattle, sheep, and goats. Islanders are still naming their children after the famous Commodore, the most distinguished visitor ever to go ashore. Wilson's father was named Horace Perry Savory. Besides American, the Islanders have strains of English, Portuguese, Polynesian and Japanese blood in their veins.

By 1875 the Japanese were established on the islands but a few of the original colonists, still loyal to the United States, held secret Fourth of July celebrations every year.

Future of the Islands - After being reinstated on the Bonins where the stars and stripes now wave, Wilson Savory hopes to see a revival of the fishing industry. Increased postwar shipping and air transport, he speculated, may make it possible to export fresh fruits, vegetables, live-stock, and fish to market in Japan.