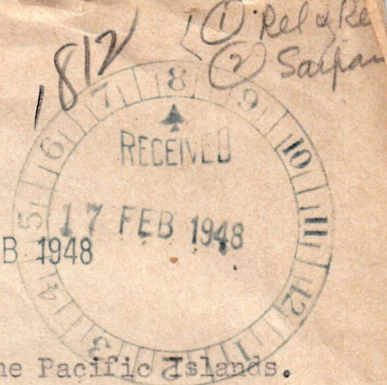


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TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS
Office of the Civil Administrator
Saipan District



Serial: 86

12 FEB 1948

From: Civil Administrator, Saipan District.
To: Deputy High Commissioner, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.
Subject: Shipment of Materials from Saipan to Guam; report of.
Reference: (a) DepHiComTerPacIs serial 192 of 7 February 1948.

1. Receipt is acknowledged of reference (a) requesting information on a presumed embargo on the shipment of private property.

2. In the instant case referred to in the enclosure to reference (a), you are advised that the material listed was not purchased from the U. S. Commercial Company. It was secured, we believe, from a local native materials dealer who had obtained it without proper authority from an abandoned Army camp area.

3. In order to provide building material for the reconstruction of the old village of Tanapag, Civil Administration arranged for the salvaging of several abandoned camp sites. Working parties were formed by the interested families to recover and transport the plywood, corrugated iron, and lumber to Tanapag. It was clearly understood by all that upon completion of construction the buildings would be sealed and appraised, and payment for the material would then be in order.

4. A number of participants including the Building Material dealer apparently had no intention of building and were selling to visiting Guamanians at practically black market prices. It is obvious that there would be no returns to the government in such a procedure. Further it would make more attractive, a practice, which the Civil Administrator is endeavouring to stamp out, that of stripping abandoned military areas.

5. In no case where bonafide bills of sale, of material procured through proper channels, have been produced has Civil Administration refused approval of shipment.

6. Building materials are becoming increasingly scarce while appropriations are diminishing. The wholesale transfer of remaining resources to Guam is not considered to be in the best interests of the people of Saipan.

7. When Civil Administration became aware of the traffic in materials last fall, steps were taken immediately to curb it. However all purchases made in good faith prior to that time by Guamanians were approved for shipment. The remainder of the material was disposed of with the specific understanding that it could not be shipped off the island.

R. A. Wilhelm
R. A. WILHELM

cc: GovNorMar