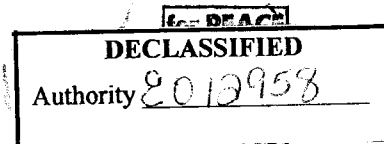


In reply refer to Initials
and No.

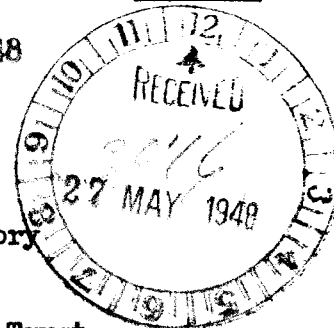
Op22/djh
Serial 593P22

NAVY DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



BONDS

21 MAY 1948



AIR MAIL

RESTRICTED

From: Chief of Naval Operations.
To: Deputy High Commissioner of the Trust Territory
of the Pacific Islands.
Subject: Preparatory Planning for Orderly Turnover of Trust
Territory Administration to Department of the Interior.

- References:
- (a) CNO rest ltr ser 170P22 of 18 Feb 48.
 - (b) Draft Organic Legislation for the Trust Territory dtd 14 Jan 48.
 - (c) DepHiComTerPacIs ltr ser 593 of 21 Apr 48.

1. Reference (c) requests basic information requisite for planning for an orderly turnover of the administration of the Trust Territory to a civilian agency of the Federal Government.

2. The President has indicated his intention of designating the Department of the Interior as the agency responsible for the administration of Guam, Samoa and the Trust Territory in the event currently pending legislation is enacted into law.

3. Conversations have been held with Interior Department officials. To date, no specific decisions have been reached. The following answers to the questions propounded in reference (c) are entirely tentative and represent only first impressions gained from informal conversations.

4. Paragraph 2 of reference (c): Seat of government. The Navy Department has recommended Saipan because of its proximity to Guam, which is the nearest port of call of commercial shipping and air lines and the center of trans-Pacific communications.

5. Paragraph 3 of reference (c): Communications and shipping. For an indeterminate period after the turnover, the Navy will probably continue to supply inter-island communications and shipping within the Trust Territory but on a reimbursable basis. The civilian agency will progressively take over such shipping and communications. At localities where the Navy maintains communication facilities, it will probably handle traffic for the civilian agency on a reimbursable basis. The Navy will continue to handle all Navy communications, and will also handle long distance civil traffic except where commercial facilities become available.

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6. Paragraph 4 of reference (c): Joint use of educational facilities on Guam. In the event the administration of the Trust Territory passes to a civilian agency while the Navy retains the administration of Guam and Samoa, arrangements will be made to continue the present schools of nursing, medical and dental practitioners, making their facilities available to the Trust Territory on a reimbursable basis. The Pacific Island Teacher Training School would probably be shifted to Saipan. In the event that the administration of all island governments is simultaneously transferred, it is probable that the foregoing plan would also be placed in effect. The civilian agency would gradually replace all naval personnel, reimbursing the Navy for such personnel as are temporarily employed.

7. Paragraph 5 of reference (c): Logistic support. At the outset, the Navy will undoubtedly be called upon for almost one hundred per cent of its present logistic contribution on a reimbursable basis. It is contemplated that the civilian agency will progressively assume all logistic responsibility with the possibility that the Navy might be called upon for emergency aid in the contingency of typhoon damage, etc.

W. F. Jennings
W. F. Jennings,
By direction.

Copies to: (AIR MAIL)
HiComTerFacIs
Governor Guam