

22 AUG 1949

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY:

Subject: Capital site for the headquarters of the Trust Territory.

Enclosure: (A) HiComurfac2's Secret ltr Ser 005 of 8 Aug 49.

1. In the attached letter Admiral Radford makes a recapitulation of steps taken in connection with studies made to move the Deputy High Commissioner's headquarters from Guam. He makes the following findings and recommendations:

a. He is firmly opposed for many reasons to a move to Saipan.

b. He repeats a former recommendation that the staff of the Deputy High Commissioner be moved to Caku-Truk.

c. He recommends that if the move is not made to Caku-Truk that maintenance of the status quo on Guam would be preferable to a move to Saipan.

2. The Department of the Interior has been consulted in the matter. They strongly urge that the headquarters of the High Commissioner not be moved to Caku-Truk. They would not object were the headquarters to be moved to Saipan.

3. In general, Interior prefers that the Deputy High Commissioner's headquarters remain on Guam until the transfer takes place, or at least until a civilian High Commissioner has had an opportunity to study the problem and make recommendations.

4. The logistic planners in Operations continue to be opposed to a move to Saipan because of expected additional costs to support a headquarters on Saipan. For reasons of economy they prefer that the Deputy High Commissioner remain in Guam.

5. The High Commissioner sums up the substance of recommendation in the Trusteeship Council concerning the location of the capital site to be that the administering authority should make long-range plans toward establishing the capital site in the Trust Territory, but that such plans need not however be fully implemented until such time as a permanent civilian government has been established and

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Capital Site



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the difficulties of housing, transportation, and communications have been overcome. The High Commissioner considers that the Trusteeship Council's recommendations do not require a move into the Trust Territory during the interim administration of the Navy Department.

6. In view of the foregoing, and in view of a decided financial pinch in the Trust Territory during the current year, it is recommended that the headquarters of the Deputy High Commissioner remain in Guam. If you approve, the High Commissioner and Deputy High Commissioner will be advised that no change in location of the Deputy High Commissioner's headquarters is contemplated during the Navy's interim administration.

CHARLES WELLS, JR.
DEPUTY CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS (ADMINISTRATIVE)

Originated by Captain P. G. Hale, Op22, Ext. 2211
18 Aug 1949 --- D. J. Hedge

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