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Scientific Investigation

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Dr. Harold J. Goddard
Executive Secretary
Pacific Science Board
Burns F. Hickey Museum
Honolulu 35, Hawaii

Dear Mr. Goddard:

Thank you for your letter of July 21, 1950, and the report of Dr. Spahr's work in the Marianas. The Navy is indeed grateful for the service he has rendered the Civil Administrator of the Saipan National in the development of his archaeological and prehistorical projects.

In view of the quality of Dr. Spahr's work and its value to the Navy, I am sure it will be possible to arrange transportation to Yap and Palau when he desires to make the trip. Such transportation authorization may be obtained through CIVAS Saipan and the HONOLULU-PALAU Liaison Officer, Guam, by using a copy of this letter as authority.

Thanking you for your past consideration, I remain,

sincerely,

A. W. RADFORD

ORIGINATOR: LTJG E. H. GUNDERSON (961) 8-8-50 (m)

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Summary of letter from Dr. Harold J. COOLIDGE, Executive Secretary, Pacific Science Board to Admiral Arthur W. RADFORD, USN.

Contains:

1. A brief review of the work Dr. Alex Spoehr, an anthropologist and ethnologist, sponsored by the Chicago Natural History Museum, in the Marianas Islands.
2. A request for transportation of Dr. Spoehr to Koror and Yap to investigate archaeological possibilities at these locations. States trip recommended by Conservation Committee of Micronesia.
3. As an enclosure, a copy of a quarterly report of Dr. Spoehr's work in the Marianas, covering the following activities:

a. During this period Dr. Spoehr completed his archaeological project on Saipan and Tinian. Most of this work involved the collection of cultural material (i.e. pottery fragments, etc.) by excavation, and the survey of all known latte sites on Tinian and Saipan. Cultural material is being shipped to the Chicago Natural History Museum for analysis. Dr. Spoehr recommends that the House of Taga (a legendary giant) on Tinian be designated as an official historic monument and accorded appropriate care to prevent further deterioration.

b. Ethnological project: Conducted investigations at Tinian and Saipan. Dr. Spoehr is of the opinion that considerable adjustment will be necessary before the Tinian people attain success and its attendant happiness. He notes that they are a displaced group in a new environment. He devoted some time to the investigation of the ethnological contrasts between the Chamorros and Carolinians on Saipan. His aim is to determine areas of relative stability and instability in contemporary Chamorro culture, insofar as these affect the formation of an integrated community based on a sound economy. Intends to investigate changing family and kinship organizations as evidenced by the relatively high incidence of juvenile delinquency; the religious organization; class structure; and local political organization, during the next quarter.

Very respectfully,


L. S. FISKE

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