

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

20 February 1951

MEMORANDUM

From: Economics Officer, Saipan District.  
To: Civil Administrator, Saipan District.

Subj: Island of Rota, inspection of.

1. In accordance with verbal instructions of the Civil Administrator, Saipan District, the Economics Officer, in company with Mr. Henry Link, of the CarMar Trading Company, visited the Island of Rota. Primary purpose of the visit was to inspect available scrap for possible sale by the CarMar Trading Company. The largest amount of scrap, of the type for which CarMar is at present searching, is in the old Japanese sugar mill.
2. At a somewhat earlier date, Mr. Link had visited the mill and had noted that there were approximately a dozen large bronze bearings in the mill, each bearing weighing about 250 lbs. Upon examination of the mill, it was found that some of these bearings had been removed and presumably shipped off the island and sold on Guam. Some bearings were still intact in the machinery evidently being bolted so tight they were unable to be removed. Five bearings had been removed from their location on the machinery and were located about half way to the boat landing. Instructions were given to the Deputy Insular Constabularyman to remove these bearings to the Civ-Ad area for safekeeping. There was also evidence that some copper wire had been removed from the mill.
3. A trip was made to the old Japanese gun placements and it was determined that there were a considerable number of brass powder cases still in place. At the time of the visit, two large signs in Chamorro had been placed at short distances from the sugar mill by the Deputy Insular Constabularyman. The signs informed the natives that it was unlawful to remove anything from the mill for sale or for shipment to Guam. These signs had been erected upon verbal instructions which the writer had sent to Rota from Guam during the time he was passing through Guam enroute to Chichi Jima. The writer believes that no scrap will now leave the island unofficially. Upon receipt of the information over three months ago, that the sugar mill would be removed for scrap, the writer informed the natives of Rota that anything they needed for use on Rota should be removed at their earliest opportunity. However, they were not given specific instructions that nothing was to be sold or shipped from the Island.
4. It appeared to the writer that there were literally tons of scrap left in the Japanese sugar mill and also that a considerable amount of copper wire, brass fittings, etc., were still lying around in other locations.
5. Also on Rota at the time of the writer's inspection were Lt. D.D. Mocre, and Mr. William Reyes of the Saipan school system. They will submit additional reports.

6. It was observed that the village on Rota was in its usual clean and well-kept condition. Five new attractively planned wooden houses were in the process of completion. Rota's first post-war, all concrete and coral, typhoon-proof house is nearing completion. The small boat from Guam was on the marine railway for repair. This work was giving employment to approximately eight Rotanese. The TCO radio transmitter and receiver on Rota had just been returned from Guam after overhauling and repair. Two Electronics officers from Guam accompanied the writer and inspected the set. It was not operating at the moment inasmuch as the voltage on the electrical system was fluctuating and it was impossible to make a fair test. Both officers expressed dissatisfaction with the type of equipment installed on Rota and stated that upon repair of the electrical system, so that a steady current could be maintained, they would send a more adequate set to Rota from Guam. This equipment would be on a M/R basis and not be charged against our official allotment.

7.. The writer met briefly with individual members of the Council who expressed the hope that a suitable American would be sent to Rota as a resident and assist them with their problems.

8. A plan of action to remedy the discrepancies above mentioned, as well as those which will appear in Lt. Moore's and Mr. Reyes' reports, will soon be submitted.



Frank L. Brown