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Info
all

18 November 1952

Rear Admiral C. C. Hartman
DCNO (Admin) Op-02
Navy Department
Washington, D. C.

Dear Chick:

I have yours of the 14th. First concerning COMNAVFE serial 878 and CNO's 3rd Endorsement. A copy of my reply is enclosed herewith. You will note that we state in somewhat terse language that we think it a legitimate charge but that we don't have the dough. I also note your comy remark that you "might be able to help in case we need additional money". Well, we need it in the amounts requested by COMNAVFE et al. In other words, if you slip us a total of 455 per month we will be glad to pass along 225 to BRISCOE, 115 to McMAHON, and 115 to RAGAN. Simple, what?

Top speed on the Saipan-Tinian deal is the right word. Background material indicates that the last turnover required about 6 months plus, and hundreds of dispatches back and forth, whereas we must now do the job in (-) 45 days!

A round table conference is scheduled for tomorrow 19th and HICOM's Staff and ours get together to attack each problem and come up in agreement where possible.

I have already had a preliminary get together with Deputy HICOM (McConnel). I gather that they are willing and anxious to turn over all the islands north of Guam, i. e. Rota, Saipan, Tinian, and those little fellows up the chain. It appears that a broad interpretation of the Exec order will permit this. What do you think? Rotanese have already petitioned CINCPACFLT to return! I note your trite remark that this deal will cost us some money. We could possibly finance it alone if you want us to tie up some ships.

The Compo deal sounds fine and I hope he takes it.

Obviously this is just a preliminary letter since the multitude of tough problems must be ironed out before I can do other than ruminare. I visualize that we will come up with some sort of agreement in a week or so and then perhaps bundle it up and send an officer to Washington to clear it with Navy Department and Interior.

Admiral RADFORD returns day after tomorrow after a seven weeks absence and I will be glad to see him. (I don't mind the work but these tough decisions, etc..)

With my best, as always,

Sincerely,

So!

W. K. PHILLIPS