

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Secretary of the Navy

DATE: 9 Dec 1952

FROM : Chief of Naval Operations

SUBJECT: Executive Order 10408; amendment to

Ref: (a) Executive Order 10408 of 10 Nov 1952
 (b) SECNAV msg 242140Z Nov to CINCPACFLT
 (c) CINCPACFLT msg 290324Z Nov to CNO
 (d) CINCPACFLT msg 302249Z Nov to CNO

Encl: (1) Proposed ltr to SECSTATE
 (2) Proposed ltr to SECINTERIOR

1. Reference (a) transferred the administration of that portion of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands which includes the islands of Tinian and Saipan from the Secretary of the Interior to the Secretary of the Navy, effective 1 January 1953. Reference (b) directed CINCPACFLT to institute the administration of civil government in Saipan and Tinian as of 1 January 1953 in accordance with reference (a).
2. The islands of Saipan and Tinian are but two of a group known as the Northern Marianas District for purposes of administration. These two islands however have 83% of the permanent native population of the District. In addition, Saipan has been and is the administrative center of the entire District. All political, economic, medical, education and cultural activities operate around Saipan as the focal point.
3. In accomplishing the transfer of the two major islands including the administrative center of the Northern Marianas District, the surviving remnants will become a difficult problem of effective, orderly and economical administration for the High Commissioner of the Trust Territory. Accordingly, the High Commissioner and CINCPACFLT have proposed, references (c) and (d), that the administration of the entire Northern Marianas District be transferred to the Navy Department.
4. In order to accomplish the transfer of the whole Northern Marianas District, an amendment to reference (a) is required.
5. By enclosures (1) and (2), the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Interior have been requested to indicate their concurrence in the proposal, prior to the preparation of the amendment to Executive Order 10408 by the Navy Department.
6. It is recommended that you sign the enclosures.

/s/ D. B. DUNCAN
 Acting Chief of Naval Operations