

Op215/flf  
Ser 508P21

28 JAN 1953

From: Secretary of the Navy  
To: Secretary of Defense

Subj: Proposed agreement between the Department of the Navy and the Department of the Interior with respect to the transfer of responsibility for the administration of the islands of Saipan and Tinian in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands

Encl: (1) Five copies of subject agreement

1. The President by Executive Order 10408 dated 10 November 1952 directed that the administration of that portion of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands which includes the islands of Tinian and Saipan be transferred from the Secretary of the Interior to the Secretary of the Navy effective 1 January 1953.
2. The subject proposed agreement was drafted by the Department of the Navy in collaboration with representatives of the Department of the Interior. The recommendations of the Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet and of the High Commissioner of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands have been incorporated in the agreement. This draft has my approval and has been forwarded to the Secretary of the Interior for his concurrence.
3. Action to effect the transfer has been taken. Navy officers and enlisted men are now on duty as of 1 January 1953 at the newly established U.S. Naval Administration Unit Saipan District.
4. The Chief of Naval Operations, Civil Affairs/Military Government Branch, has been designated as the agency of the Navy Department charged with the responsibility of negotiating the agreement.

/S/ FRANCIS P. WHITEHAIR  
Acting Secretary of the Navy

Copy to:  
Department of the Army (with encl)  
Department of the Air Force (with encl)

Originated by LCDR C E HERRICK (OP215B)  
X-54418 ... 9 Jan 53 ..... Felker  
Rewritten per OP-02 ... 21 Jan 53 .... Felker

C O P Y