

**DECLASSIFIED**  
 Authority EO 12958

UN

Op-0985/111  
 SAC 834092

MAY 15 1959

**AIR MAIL**

**From:** Chief of Naval Operations  
**To:** Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet  
**Subj:** Claims of the Saipanses for damages for personal injury and loss of life or property  
**Ref:** (a) Petition of 1 Apr 1959 from Elias Sablan and other Saipanses residents  
 (b) CMC ltr sac 834092 of 6 May 1959 to Dept of State  
 (c) NAVAD Saipan ltr sac 139 of 31 Jan 1957

1. Reference (a) is a petition to the United Nations relative to the processing of claims for loss of life or property and for personal injury resulting from combat operations.
2. By reference (b) a copy of the petition was forwarded to the Department of State as a matter under their cognizance.
3. These are claims for combat damage which, if compensable at all, are claims against the Japanese Government. In view of international considerations, the vesting of former Japanese assets in the Trust Territory in the Government of the Trust Territory, and the utilization of these assets for the benefit of the island peoples, and the practical impossibility of reconstruction of evidence to support payment of individual claims on an equitable basis, it is practically certain that none of these claims will ever be paid.
4. All personnel, military and civilian, should be advised of these circumstances and further advised that absolutely no encouragement should be given to persons having such claims.
5. The Saipanses should be reminded that the data forwarded by reference (c) was collected for information purposes and for preservation of evidence for use in negotiations in connection with any Japanese claims for return of assets in the Trust Territory and not with any prospect that individual claims for combat damages would be paid. In order that all who suffered as a result of the war may share in such compensation as is available, funds from the sale of former Japanese assets (chiefly scrap) have been and will continue to be used for projects of direct benefit to the Saipanses people.

**Copy to:**  
 COMNAVSTAAS  
 NAVAD SAIPAN  
 HICONTREPACTS

**ORIG BY** GER CH MILLER OP-0985  
**L-3418 ... 5/14/59 .. Palmer**

*M. J. Val - Legal*