

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : OP-09B 6
VIA : OP-09B2
FROM : OP-09B22

DATE: 16 JAN 1962

SUBJECT: Honolulu Star-Bulletin press release re transfer of Saipan from Navy to Interior

- 1. Forwarded for information is a press release from the 12 January edition of the Honolulu Star-Bulletin concerning the transfer of Saipan from Navy to Interior.
- 2. This is the first information we have received on the press release.

Very respectfully,

L. G. Findley
L. G. FINDLEY
Captain, USN

Honolulu Star-Bulletin Friday, January 12, 1962 ★★

Navy Will Relinquish Control of Sa

Administrative control of most of the Marianas Islands, including Saipan, and several other inhabited islands, will be switched from the Navy to the Interior Department on July 1.

Navy has administered the northern Marianas since World War II. The announcement of the pending transfer was made on Guam by M. Wilfred Goding, Pacific Trust Territory high commissioner, and Rear Admiral John S. Coye,

commander of Navy forces in the Marianas. Goding said Saipan, scene of bloody World War II fighting when the U.S. took the island from the Japanese, will be made the provisional capital of the Territory.

The Territory now is administered from Guam, which is outside the Trust. Said Goding in an Associated Press dispatch: "The designation of a provisional capital within the Territory will facilitate the

growth of self government and will allow the people of Micronesia, through the principle of self-determination, to select in the future a permanent seat for their government."

The Marianas chain is anchored on the southern end by Guam and extends north for about 500 miles. The transfer will include all the Marianas except for Guam and Rota. About 20 islands are included in the area, called the Saipan District of the Trust.

U.S. Control of Saipan July 1

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About 20 islands are included in the area, called the Saipan District of the Trust.

Seven of these are inhabited.

The Navy had jurisdiction over all the Trust Territory islands until July, 1951, when they were transferred to the Interior Department.

The Saipan District was taken over again by the Navy

in January, 1953, by Presidential executive order.

The Star-Bulletin's Washington, D.C., bureau reported last October that a shift of the Saipan District from military to civilian control was planned by President Kennedy's administration.