

## Isle Control Will Shift to Interior

# Navy Ending Secret Saipan Work

By FRANK HEWLETT  
Star-Bulletin Bureau

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28—

The Navy is closing out a hush-hush program it has been conducting in a large fenced-off area on Saipan in the Pacific Trust Territory.

This was the report of a Navy spokesman here yesterday in response to a series of questions from the Honolulu Star-Bulletin.

The apparent reason is that administrative control of the Saipan District will shift from the Navy to the Interior Department by July 1 of this year.

The Navy would only say the fenced-off area was on Saipan Island and used for "technical training."

But from persons who have visited the restricted area it was learned it was on the northern part of the island and the Navy conducted a secret project there. It is called the "NTTU" which only means Navy Technical Training Unit.

The Navy spokesman re-

plied in the affirmative when asked if classified military work was permitted in the Trust Territory under terms of the trusteeship agreement. Some other examples cited were the earlier projects on Eniwetok and Bikini Atolls. These were used for tests of nuclear weapons.

Asked if there were any other parts of the Saipan District which might be retained by the military after

the transfer of administrative control to the Interior Department, the spokesman said they would have only "mobilization retention rights."

And when asked why control of the Saipan District was switched back to the Navy in 1953, the spokesman said: "The President directed the transfer of administrative control and the Navy complied."