

# Saipan Administration Relinquished by Navy

GUAM, July 2 (AP)—Nearly two decades of American military rule on Saipan ended yesterday when the United States Navy officially turned over administration of the islands to the Department of the Interior.

The transfer was made at ceremonies held in front of a schoolhouse three days before Saipan was to be proclaimed the provisional capital of the Pacific Trust Territory, which embraces the Caroline and Marshall Islands as well as others of the Marianas group.

Administration of this vast Pacific area was turned over to the United States as a trust territory by the United Nations after World War II, during which American forces had fought bloody battles to capture many of the scattered coral islands. They were first colonized by the Germans before World War I, and between the two world wars were administered by Japan as a League of Nations mandate.

M. Wilfred Goding, trust territory high commissioner, accepted the administration transfer in behalf of the Interior Department.

"It is an important responsibility," Mr. Goding said, "one that will command our best efforts in the days ahead. In accepting this responsibility on this historic occasion, I would be remiss indeed if I did not

take this opportunity to salute the Navy for a very great and progressive accomplishment. You have carried out your duties in the best tradition of your service and our Government."

Navy Comdr. P. W. Bridwell, last island naval commander, said the Saipanese have proved themselves "to be capable of living in the ways of democracy."

He urged the Saipanese to continue to press forward, especially in the field of education.

The presidential executive order directing the administration transfer was read by Rear Admiral John S. Coye, commander of naval forces in the Marianas.

## Interior Gets Saipan Control

GUAM, July 1 (AP)—The Navy officially turned over administration of Saipan to the Department of Interior today, ending almost two decades of American military rule of the Pacific Island.

The transfer was made at ceremonies in front of Hopwood School, named after retired Adm. Herbert C. Hopwood, former commander in chief of the Pacific Fleet.

The turnover came three days before Saipan was proclaimed the provisional capital of the Pacific Trust territory, which also embraces other islands in the Marianas group, as well as the Caroline and Marshall islands.

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*Saipan Transfer*