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U. S. NAVAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT UNIT.  
TINIAN  
MARIANAS ISLANDS

*Read  
issue, but  
file under  
Tinian*

MG:WBC-jnp  
1775(E)

In reply use:  
Navy #3247, c/o FPO,  
San Francisco, Calif. *ll*

7 April 1946.

From: Deputy Chief Military Government Officer.  
To : Island Commander.  
Subject: Status of Military Government On Tinian.

1. Recently many changes in Military Government activities have taken place due, primarily, to the repatriation of the Japanese and Okinawan civilians. The following is a resume of the present status of this command and recommendations for the future.

(a) Camp Churo - The temporary shelters of the original camp have been razed almost completely. The only buildings left standing in the new area are some trade buildings, the structure of the Miso Plant, and the school. All the civilians are housed in two areas, one a celotex type house in a village off Eighth Avenue and the other a village of wood structures 20' by 60' located east of the Military Government warehouse area. Several families live in the latter areas houses while the former area consists of individual houses. Food is distributed from Navy Supply and cooking is done by individual families.

(b) Civilians - The 850 people to be left on the island are all Okinawans who have resided on Tinian at least 10 years. They all elected to remain. Most of them (roughly 650) are basically farmers who decided to stay in the hopes of getting a farm here. These civilians are well organized and have an elected government which administers most of the Military Government orders. They have no judicial system, all courts and disciplinary measures being handled by Navy personnel. The native cops only apprehend offenders. At present living away from their customary pursuits (farming) they are quite restless and the sooner these people are placed on farms the better. A summary of civilians is as follows:

- 850 - to remain
- 318 - Mainland Japs )
- 250 - Okinawans ) to go on LST 871
- 330 - Okinawans to go later

(d) Navy Personnel - After repatriation is complete this station will have 3 officers and 39 enlisted men. The Officers are as follows:

NARA APPROVED

*DW 11106/1 J*

7 April 1946

Subject: Status of Military Government On Tinian.

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Ensign Leonard RUSH, D(L)  
Ensign Robert K. BOSCH, D(L)  
Ensign Daniel G. VOLKMANN, SC

Ensigns RUSH and BOSCH have both had language training to a limited degree. Of the two, Ensign RUSH seems to have the better command of the language. It is therefore intended to place RUSH in charge of all civilians activities and BOSCH in charge of the Military establishment (First Lieutenant, Public Works, Recreation, etc.). RUSH is senior, which will place him as Commanding Officer until a change in the Commissioned status is made. With only 3 officers and the one Steward going home soon it is expected that the Officer's mess will become an integral part of the Enlisted Men's mess.

(d) USCC Activity - At present the USCC is taking over the trade goods phase of Military Government. They expect to buy the Navy stock in supply and they will be the agent which furnishes civilians with trade goods (soap, cloth, shoes, etc.) in the future, on a cash basis. The present status of the Marpo Resettlement Project is strictly planning. A survey was made under the direction of Mr. Brown, but he has left the island and this project is more or less awaiting his return. Other activities of USCC are many, but the above two projects are the ones that affect Military Government.

(e) Future of Civilians on Tinian - At present it is not known definitely whether any civilians will be allowed to remain on Tinian. The decision is in the hands of CNO now. This indecision has affected the repatriation of the remaining 330 who want to go home because Lt. Col. WHITE (ComMarianas Planning) has stated that he will not be able to send a ship until he hears the fate of the other 850; then the 330 will be moved or they will all go together.

(f) Recommendations- At present the operation of the Camp consumes most of the available Jap labor leaving very little for outside units. An average of 60 laborers go to outside activities each day from a camp population of about 1700. It is estimated that when the population is 850 no labor will be available for these units. It is therefore strongly recommended that the population of Camp Churo be resettled in Marpo Valley as soon as possible. This would have the following advantages:

(1) The farmers (650) would be placed under USCC and would take their place on the individual farms thus becoming self-sufficient and saving the Navy the cost of feeding them.

7 April 1946.

Subject: Status of Military Government On Tinian.  
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They would sell the product they grow to the Farm Cooperative which is now established who would in turn market it to local activities and ship the surplus to Saipan or Guam by air.

(2) The Navy Military Government activity at Churo would be dissolved and function as a department of Island Command.

(3) The natives, being self-sufficient, would not need as large a supply activity as we now maintain.

(4) The USCC could guide the farm production and have administrative control of all farmers whereas now they have only about 15 people; the balance and practically all farmers are under Military Government and only grow enough to keep alive and supply the few people in Churo as no other markets have been developed. USCC could coordinate all civilian activities whereas now, having only a small trade goods activity, they are unable to do this.

(5) This resettlement project would not conflict with any other higher echelon plans. If CNO decides to send all Japs home (a remote possibility) they could be repatriated from Marpo, as well as from Churo.

(6) The control of the natives and the enforcement of all proclamations in effect would be thorough and complete as before due to the overall military control exercised by the Navy through USCC.

(7) The natives would be practicing their traditional occupations and therefore would be more economically secure and feel more like humans and less like prisoners behind barbed wire.

2. If the population of Churo is resettled in Marpo the Military Government Hospital 204 could very well be decommissioned and a Navy dispensary set up in Marpo. This dispensary should consist of a Chief, two Pharmacist's mates and four native nurses and could be a branch of NAB Tinian or of Military Government Hospital 202 - Saipan. The Serious cases (estimated to be 3 a month) could be flown to Saipan for treatment. All natives are now being screened for diseases which should reduce necessary medical care in the future.

3. The formation of a village in Marpo could be speeded by moving surplus prefabs to the site "as is" on trailers. Farmers' individual housing could be built by the farmers using material which is on hand. Similar projects have been carried out by Military Government on land adjacent to Camp Churo without the slightest problem. Recently 200 people were resettled on a new area and in less than a week had the

SW 111061 J

7 April 1946.

Subject: Status of Military Government on Tinian.

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houses built and the land in crops.

4. There is a certain group of people such as stevadors that are staying who are the nucleus of a labor corps. These people could be housed in Marpo near the village, thus unifying all native activity.

5. Conclusion - The recommended changes are necessary to complete the transition from the strictly military function of Military Government to the post-war mission. The military mission was to "aid the military effort" and to keep the civilians out of the way of the military as far as possible. We have passed from that era now and are concerned with the post-war purpose of keeping natives here. That purpose in the case of Tinian is somewhat nebulous. However, whatever it is the move to individual farms is a fundamental move and should be pushed through to completion immediately.

W. B. CAMERON.

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