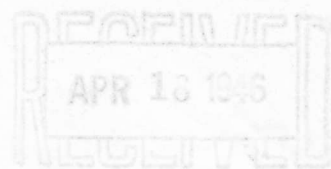


116-1
NAB3247/F16-1
(IsCom:gjr)
Serial: 410

UNITED STATES NAVAL AIR BASE
NAVY NUMBER 3247
c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California



15 April 1946

From: Island Commander, Tinian.
To : Commander Marianas.

Subject: Native Labor on Tinian - Availability of.

References: (a) ComMarianas dispatch 140503 of April 1946.
(b) CNAB Tinian dispatch 141200 of April 1946.

1. It is considered wise to report that no labor can be expected from the Japanese Okinawans living on Tinian, in maintenance of Naval establishments, loading of Naval material, or in any other Naval project.

2. During the war the Naval Air Base usually had seventy-five (75) Japanese civilian men working around the Base daily, and forty (40) Japanese women civilians working in the laundry. When the return of these people to their native land commenced, and their money in excess of one thousand (1,000) yen, and all so called luxury articles were taken from them, when searched on the docks, the Japanese Okinawans remaining on Tinian (about 1,000) discontinued to volunteer for work outside their camp. There is no incentive for these people to work if their money and the things they buy with their money, is to be taken from them later on.

3. The future plan for these people is uncertain to everyone on Tinian. This Command has no idea what to advise the Japanese civilians of their future. The Military Government of Tinian has no knowledge of their eventual employment or disposition. The USCC has no plan, or definite information from the Navy, or the State Department for the future of these people. As a result of this uncertainty the people do not care to come out of their camp and work for the Navy. They have the maximum money allowed, they are fed by the Government, they have small farm plots around the camp, and they do not care to work for the Army or the Navy, at thirty-five (35) cents per day.

4. At present the Naval Air Base has an average of four (4) men and three (3) women working daily. It is understood by this Command that the Japanese civilians cannot be ~~fired~~ or forced to work. Is this correct?

5. Can Commander Marianas give any information on the future plan for these people? Is there any way in which they can be persuaded, or encouraged to work for the Army and Navy? The entire matter of Military Government and the Japanese civilians on Tinian, is most unsatisfactory, and it is strongly advised that some definite plan be made for their lives.

44

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6. The Commanding Officer of the Military Government is now an Ensign. The Nisei troops formerly on duty with the Military Government as instructors have been demobilized. It is felt that an officer with more rank, experience and judgement than an Ensign should be placed in command of Military Government. It is understood that the Navy has certain obligations towards these civilians in regulating their lives. If this is correct, the Nisei personnel should be replaced by other personnel to carry out their former functions.

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