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U. S. NAVAL OPERATING BASE  
SAIPAN, M. I.

file

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GMK

Serial: 2456

2 July, 1946

FIRST ENDORSEMENT on

NMGU, Saipan ltr A17-10 Serial 311 dtd 29 June 1946.

From: Island Commander, Saipan.  
To : Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet  
and Pacific Ocean Areas.  
Via : Commander, Marianas.

1. Forwarded. The basic letter gives a good picture  
of the current Military Government situation on Saipan.

H. T. Stanley

cc:  
NMGU, Saipan

File: A17-10  
IGF-Pn  
Serial: 311

U. S. NAVAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT UNIT

SAIPAN, M. I.

29 June 1946

From: The Deputy Chief Military Government Officer.  
To: The Commander in Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet and Pacific Ocean Areas.  
Via: The Island Commander, SAIPAN, M. I.  
The Commander, MARIANAS.

Subject: Military Government Activities on SAIPAN.

1. Several weeks ago a series of articles appeared in the Honolulu Star Bulletin, written by a former employee of the U.S. Commercial Company who was stationed on SAIPAN, in which the functioning of Naval Military Government on SAIPAN was sharply criticized. Many of the comments made in these articles are incorrect, therefore for possible press release material, this information is submitted which may be of value to the Public Information Officer.

2. There are four thousand four hundred Chamorros and Carolinians living on SAIPAN, over half of this number being children fifteen years of age and younger. These people live in two villages, the larger village of Chalan Kanoa and a second village which houses the natives recently repatriated from YAP. The houses are constructed of frame and concrete, the latter built by the Japanese. Thirty two frame houses, measuring 18 feet by 24 feet have been constructed within the past six months as have forty suijs (outside cook houses). Every month additional dwellings are erected and the older and more unsightly buildings are razed. All houses have electric lights and a modern sewage system has been installed in the village. There are no outside privies in Chalan Kanoa. Ten combination shower and flush type toilets for community use have been erected and chlorinated fresh water is available to each house. The village is neat and clean, all garbage being collected daily by a sanitation detail which also sprays the area weekly for insect control. The natives take a great deal of pride in the appearance and cleanliness of Chalan Kanoa.

3. In the village, in addition to the homes, is the school (which has an enrollment of over 700 pupils) where English, reading, writing, arithmetic and vocational subjects are taught. The trade store and butcher shop, dispensary and dental clinic, seamstress shops, barber and beauty shops are located in one large building. The Catholic Church, parish house, a new frame house recently constructed for the Catholic Sisters, handicraft factory, jewelry, cobbler, bakery and cabinet shops, theatre, city hall, police station, jail, fire station and cemetery are all in the village. The village has three entrances manned by members of the native police force. Now that all Japanese civilians have been repatriated, and to celebrate the first fourth of July since peace was declared, the barbed wire fences, that have surrounded the villages, will be removed and the natives will be permitted to freely enter and leave the villages similar to the arrangement established on GUAM. Movies are shown three nights a week in the village theatre and on a number of occasions U.S.O. troupes have entertained the Chamorros. Rent, light, water, fuel for cooking and entertainment, are free.

4. A 100 bed Military Government Hospital is maintained to care for only the natives. Recently twenty four native nurses, including four males, graduated from the Military Government Hospital.

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U. S. NAVAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT UNIT

SAIPAN, M. I.

29 June 1946

Subject: Military Government Activities on SAIPAN (continued).

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As tuberculosis accounts for approximately 50% of the hospital census a new 60 bed sanatorium has recently been put in commission. Military Government Hospital is conducting an island wide survey for tuberculosis, each individual receiving a chest X-ray. It is anticipated that enough pulmonary tuberculosis will be detected and hence isolated and treated in the sanatorium to make the extra bed capacity hospital a real necessity. All medicines, surgery, hospital treatment, dental treatment are provided the natives, by the Navy without charge.

5. Early this <sup>year</sup> the operation of the trade stores, farms and all handicraft was turned to the U.S. Commercial Company. This change over was directed by CinCPOA in the order that naval personnel might be relieved for other duties. CinCPAC restricted letter serial 40109 dated 26 October 1945, economic policies were determined for the sale of goods to the natives. Pricing policies have been agreed upon by Commander MARIANAS and the U.S. Commercial Company. Wholesale prices were maintained at cost plus 5% in accordance with Commander, MARIANAS ltr. 13861 dated 18 November 1945. On 1 March 1946 verbal instructions were received by the Finance Officer of the U. S. Commercial Company to place prices on a retail basis, rather than a wholesale list, with trade discounts allowed the Chamorro Trade Store (100% owned by the Natives). This price list was prepared by the U. S. Commercial Company at GUAM effective 1 June 1946 for all Pacific Ocean Areas. In accordance with CinCPOA restricted letter serial 40109 dated 26 October 1945 the U. S. Commercial Company took over the purchase and marketing of native handicraft in January 1946. After four months operation this business was returned to native management.

6. At no time have Singer sewing machines been in stock for sale at the trade store. Military Government has on loan, on a rotating plan, fifty rebuilt Japanese sewing machines which no rent or other charges have been made for the use of these machines and every family in the village has an opportunity to use this equipment. During the past nine months 2,203,683 pounds of food have been distributed gratuitously to the natives. This includes rice, milk, beans, canned meats, canned fish, flaked fish, Japanese soy beans, fresh fish, fresh vegetables (828,470 lbs) and miscellaneous items. At no time has rice been sold to the natives but 538,650 lbs has been distributed free during the past nine months. Such items as sugar, milk, salt, powdered eggs, lard, butter flour, yeast, baking powder, coffee, tea, vinegar, canned fruit, canned meat, canned vegetables, and fresh meat are available for purchase at the Chamorro trade store. Regulations have been relaxed to permit the Chamorro population to go freely out of camp and to bring in natural foods that grow abundantly in the country side. Small plots of land, outside of the village, have been furnished wage earners for home gardens so that they might further augment their food supply.

One of the fastest selling articles at the trade store is print cloth, which was 31 per yard but on 1 March was reduced to 30 cents, (not \$1.60 as listed in the articles). Claw hammers list at \$1.00, frying pans .50 laundry soap .05. The natives spend 3.3 cents per capita per diem at the trade store for food. Total monthly business for May was a little over \$13,000, of which \$3,000 was from Pepsi-Cola sales.

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8. Recently recommendations were submitted to the Area Wage Scale Board in GUAM, to increase the native wage scale in accordance with Commander, MARIANAS ltr. A17-10(1-A) FFL2/50:ffo Serial No. 5869 dtd. 1 May 1946. Largest increase recommended will effect those in the lower brackets (common labor and semi-skilled) which represent 88% of the 1307 registered laborers. Gratuitous issue of food will continue, for the present so that increased wages, if approved, will permit the people to obtain a minimum amount of small luxuries that cannot be issued.

9. Demobilization has slowed down the progress of native economy as all available native men, and women, have been placed on jobs, workin for the Military. It is felt however that this is temporary measure, and with replacements arriving from the States, a number of Chamorros will soon be returned to their farms, shops and business.

L. G. FINDLEY  
Comdr., USNR  
Commanding Officer.