

Interior

Capital Planning
A4

**COMMANANT MARIANAS
UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET
and
TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS
Office of the Deputy High Commissioner
Guam, U.I.**

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30 JUN 1948

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From: Commanant Marianas,
Deputy High Commissioner, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

To: Commanant in Chief Pacific and U. S. Pacific Fleet.

Subject: Saipan as the Seat of Government for the Trust Territory under
the Department of the Interior.

References: (a) CincPacFlt ltr ser 2680 of 11 June 1948.

1. Saipan appears to be an excellent site for the seat of government of the Trust Territory in all respects except one -- that it is at one extremity of the populated parts of the Trust Territory instead of in a central position. The Deputy High Commissioner, considered this factor to be of controlling importance.

2. The most central high island is Pohnpei, but that island lacks a serviceable air field, and the harbor has limitations. Next in order of suitability, so far as location is concerned, is Truk. The Truk anchorage is ample and Moen Island has a serviceable air field. The field is of limited capacity and is not receiving adequate maintenance.

3. The cost of providing the required facilities for government will be about the same at Saipan and at Truk, for neither place has any of the permanent buildings and facilities which will be required. If this transfer of government were to be made in the near future, some of the temporary buildings now on Saipan could serve as administrative offices and others could provide housing.

4. It is recommended that planning be on the basis that the seat of government of the Trust Territory will be at Truk, but that it may be necessary to set up the government initially at Saipan.

G. A. FORNALL.

G. H. WRIGHT.

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