



NAVY DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

Op228/lvs  
Serial 1158P22

OCT 24 9 03 AM 1948

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20 OCT 1948

FIFTH ENDORSEMENT on  
IsCom Saipan ltr serial  
599 dtd 10 March 1948.

From: Chief of Naval Operations.  
To: Chief of Naval Personnel.  
Subject: Saipan Naval Officers' Club - Comment concerning.  
Enclosure: (A) DepHiComTerFacIs serial 630, Trust Territory Policy Letter, P-1, Land Policy, dtd 29 December 1948.

1. The AGNO (Island Governments) has reviewed the subject matter as discussed in the basic correspondence with endorsements thereon, and the following comment is herewith submitted in accordance with the request contained in the fourth endorsement.

2. On 29 December 1947, the Deputy High Commissioner of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands issued Trust Territory Policy letter P-1, enclosure (A), wherein a policy with regard to land matters in the Trust Territory was promulgated. Pertinent sections are quoted herein in part as important to the subject.

"3. Under the Trusteeship Agreement, the United States, as Administering Authority, undertakes to - - -; protect the inhabitants against loss of their lands and resources.

"17. - - - - order. Civil Administrators are authorized to initiate payments of rental, at reasonable rates, for lands occupied by civil government activities."

3. It is noted in the first endorsement that the Island Commander, Saipan, was requested to obtain an estimate of the cost of the land on which the golf course is located. The second endorsement indicates that a Joint Board of Land Allocation set the value of the land in question to be \$16,000. As a map of the golf course was not enclosed with the basic correspondence, it is not possible to determine the location or other facts bearing on the case. A map is considered essential before discussion or approval can be successfully completed.

4. The third endorsement states that the Guam Golf Course is located on land now held under lease by the United States of America and will be acquired for use by the Naval Communication Station. The

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Chief of Naval Operations has no comment to offer on this item as the area has been designated by higher authority for use by the Armed Services on Guam.

5. Commander Marianas recommended in the third endorsement that the Saipan Golf Club be approved by the Bureau of Naval Personnel as a separate Navy recreational activity under the control of the respective commanders. If this recommendation is approved, then it will be necessary for the Navy to obtain Congressional approval including an appropriation to purchase the privately owned land occupied by the golf course. Considerable time will be required to effect this policy.

6. However, if the decision is made to set up the golf course as a separate non-Navy or, in fact, non-military activity on Saipan, the private governing board of the golf club could negotiate direct with the private owners and, accordingly, lease the land. If this procedure is adopted, the High Commissioner of the Trust Territory must be consulted in accordance with section 19 of enclosure (A), herein quoted in part:

"19. It is the policy of the High Commissioner that, with the exception of land required for governmental purposes, title to land owned by natives shall not be transferred to non-natives - - -.

"20. Leases of native owned lands to non-natives will not be made without the approval of the High Commissioner.---".

7. In case the policy outlined in paragraph 6 is followed, the private governing board should institute without delay the payment of rentals for all privately owned land now occupied.

8. It will be necessary, in either case, for the Chief of Naval Operations to approve the location of the golf course as to the permanent naval development plans for Saipan.

9. In order to expedite a decision with regard to the land occupied by the Saipan Golf Course, it is suggested that the following be accomplished:

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Subject:

Saipan Naval Officers' Club - Consent concerning.

- (a) Island Commander, Saipan, prepare and submit a map of the golf course area showing the known owners, private or otherwise, and general location with respect to other features on the island. The location of the golf course must not conflict with the recommendations contained in the Joint Marianas Board Report and the current Basic Naval Establishment Plan.
- (b) Agreement must be obtained from all local commanders as to the golf course location.
- (c) In view of the fact that private land is involved, the Deputy High Commissioner of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands should be consulted on this matter.

**CHARLES WELBORN, JR.**  
Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Administration)

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