

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED  
SECURITY INFORMATION

24 November 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

SUBJ: Administration of Saipan and Tinian, transfer of

1. Two questions have come up in connection with the transfer of the administration of Saipan and Tinian from Interior to the Navy.

- a) DepHiCom has intimated that he was willing and anxious to turn over the whole of the Northern Marianas District including Rota, Alamagan and Agrihan, the other populated islands. The opinion has been ventured, in the field, that the Executive Order could be interpreted to include the transfer of all of the Northern Marianas.

Comment: To the question whether this was possible or not, JAG advised informally that with the approval of both the Department of the Navy and the Interior this probably could be arranged. The language of the Executive Order could be interpreted to include the whole of the Northern Marianas. It was recommended that this question be submitted to the Bureau of the Budget and the Naval Aide for Presidential comment prior to taking any positive action.

- b) Considering the Government of the Trust Territory as an entity which has existed since its inception on 18 July 1947, does this transfer of administration of a portion of the Trust Territory, namely Saipan and Tinian, affect the entity; and as a corollary issue, will the authority of the High Commissioner extend in any way to the area about to come under the administrative control of the Navy.

Comment: JAG informally advised that the transfer of the administration of Saipan and Tinian to the Navy would be a complete severance of area and authority insofar as the Government of the Trust Territory as it now exists and the authority of the High Commissioner is concerned. The administration of the Navy in this area will be completely independent in all respects from that of the Interior as it pertains to Saipan or Tinian or any additional areas that may be transferred.

2. The above informal opinions were given by CDR E. J. Taylor and LCDR J. R. Brock, International Law Branch, JAG.

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED  
SECURITY INFORMATION

*Lehemick*