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OP- 02A P
OP- 215
OP-
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Op215B/r1f
Ser 4271P21

18 DEC 1952

My dear Mr. Secretary:

Reference is made to Executive Order 10408, signed by the President on November 10, 1952, transferring the administration of that portion of the Trust Territory which includes the islands of Tinian and Saipan from the Secretary of the Interior to the Secretary of the Navy, such transfer to become effective on January 1, 1953.

The islands of Tinian and Saipan are two of the islands that make up the Northern Marianas District as defined for purposes of administration by the High Commissioner of the Trust Territory. Approximately 83% of the permanent native population of the Northern Marianas resides on the two islands of Tinian and Saipan. The remaining 17% are scattered on four other islands, one to the south of Tinian and three to the north of Saipan.

Under the jurisdiction of the High Commissioner, the Northern Marianas District has been administered locally by a District Administrator operating out of a headquarters located on Saipan. In addition to being the administrative center, Saipan is also the political, economic, medical, educational and cultural center of the Northern Marianas. The hospital and intermediate school serving the District are located on Saipan. In addition, the port of Saipan is the commercial center for economic and logistic activities carried on in the District.

In transferring the two largest islands, including the administrative center of the Marianas District, the surviving remnants will become a difficult problem of effective, orderly and economical administration for the High Commissioner. Accordingly, the High Commissioner of the Trust Territory and the Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet, have proposed that the administration of the entire Northern Marianas District be transferred to the Secretary of the Navy by the Secretary of Interior.

In order to accomplish the transfer of the whole Northern Marianas District it will be necessary to amend the language of Executive Order 10408 which reads "the islands of Tinian and Saipan" by substituting "the Northern Marianas District including Saipan and Tinian which is described geographically as that area included



NARA APPROVED

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Op215B/flf
Ser 4271P21

between latitude $14^{\circ}-00'-00''$ and $20^{\circ}-35'-00''$ north and longitude $144^{\circ}-50'-00''$ and $146^{\circ}-05'-00''$ east."

Your concurrence in the above proposal will enable the Navy Department to prepare the amendment to Executive Order 10408 for submission to the President.

By separate correspondence the Secretary of State has been advised of this proposal and his concurrence requested.

Sincerely yours,

DAN A. KIMBALL

Honorable Oscar L. Chapman
Secretary of the Interior
Washington 25, D. C.

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OP-02
JAG