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Authority E012958**RESTRICTED**  
SECURITY INFORMATION

**To:** Secretary of the Navy

**From:** Chief of Naval Operations

Proposed Agreement between the Department of the Navy and the Department of the Interior with respect to the transfer of responsibility for the administration of the islands of Saipan and Tinian in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands

**Ref:**

- (a) Executive Order 10408 of 10 November 1952
- (b) SECNAV Restricted msg 212140Z Nov 1952 to CINCPACFLT
- (c) CNO Restricted msg 132109Z Nov 1952 to CINCPACFLT
- (d) OPNAV Notice 5450, ser 5074P21 of 10 Dec 1952
- (e) CINCPACFLT ltr ser 8154 of 5 Dec 1952 to CNO
- (f) CNO ltr ser 4280P21 of 11 Dec 1952 to Distribution List
- (g) NAVADM UNIT Saipan msg 010516Z Jan to CNO

**Encl:**

- (1) Proposed ltr to SECINTERIOR
- (2) Proposed ltr to SECDEFENSE

1. By reference (a) the President directed that the administration of that portion of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands which includes the islands of Tinian and Saipan be transferred from the Secretary of the Interior to the Secretary of the Navy effective 1 January 1953.
2. Reference (b) directed CINCPACFLT to institute the administration of civil government in Saipan and Tinian as of 1 January 1953. By reference (d) the following activity was established: Naval Administrator, U.S. Naval Administration Unit Saipan District. Implementation of reference (d) in Saipan was recorded in reference (g).
3. CINCPACFLT was requested in reference (c) to draft an agreement covering the transfer of the administration of Saipan and Tinian in cooperation with the High Commissioner of the Trust Territory. By reference (e) CINCPACFLT submitted a draft of a proposed agreement covering the transfer as worked out by himself and the High Commissioner. Reference (e) was distributed to the various Bureaus and OPs for comment by reference (f), which comments have now been worked into the final draft as applicable.
4. The proposed transfer agreement has been reviewed with representatives of the Department of the Interior, Office of Territories, and as forwarded in enclosure (1) now represents the views of the Navy Department as reconciled with the views of the Interior Department.
5. Enclosure (1), recommended for your signature, forwards the proposed

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OPNAVINST 05513.10-5  
by *Er* 20 Oct 92

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*Transfer Agreement*

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agreement to the Secretary of the Interior requesting his concurrence therein. Enclosure (2) forwards the proposed agreement to the Secretary of Defense for his information.

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Op215B/flf  
Ser 507F21

28 Jan '53

My dear Mr. Secretary:

~~Enclosed is~~ a proposed agreement between the Department of the Navy and the Department of the Interior with respect to the transfer of responsibility of the administration of the islands of Saipan and Tinian as directed by the President in Executive Order 10408 of November 10, 1952. The original draft was prepared jointly by the Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet and the High Commissioner of the Trust Territory. The draft has been thoroughly reviewed in the Navy Department with the participation of representatives of the Department of the Interior, Office of Territories, and as now forwarded represents the views of my Department as reconciled with the views of your representatives.

I would appreciate your early consideration and approval of the draft in order that the resulting agreement may be forwarded to the Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet and to the High Commissioner of the Trust Territory for implementation.

Copies of the enclosed draft have been forwarded to the Secretary of Defense for his information.

Sincerely yours,

151 Francis P. Whitehair  
acting Sec Nav

Honorable Douglas R. McKay  
Secretary of the Interior  
Washington 25, D. C.

Encl:

- (1) Proposed agreement between the Department of the Navy and the Department of the Interior with respect to the transfer of responsibility of the administration of the islands of Saipan and Tinian

Originated by LCDR C E HERRICK (OP215B)  
X-54418 ... 9 Jan 53 .... Felker  
Rewritten per OP-02 .. 20 Jan 53 ... Felker

Op215B/flf  
Ser 508P21

28 Jan '53

**From:** Secretary of the Navy  
**To:** Secretary of Defense

**Subj:** Proposed agreement between the Department of the Navy and the Department of the Interior with respect to the transfer of responsibility for the administration of the islands of Saipan and Tinian in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands

**Encl:** (1) Five copies of subject agreement

1. The President by Executive Order 10408 dated 10 November 1952 directed that the administration of that portion of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands which includes the islands of Tinian and Saipan be transferred from the Secretary of the Interior to the Secretary of the Navy effective 1 January 1953.

2. The subject proposed agreement was drafted by the Department of the Navy in collaboration with representatives of the Department of the Interior. The recommendations of the Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet and of the High Commissioner of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands have been incorporated in the agreement. This draft has my approval and has been forwarded to the Secretary of the Interior for his concurrence.

3. Action to effect the transfer has been taken. Navy officers and enlisted men are now on duty as of 1 January 1953 at the newly established U.S. Naval Administration Unit Saipan District.

4. The Chief of Naval Operations, Civil Affairs/Military Government Branch, has been designated as the agency of the Navy Department charged with the responsibility of negotiating the agreement.

*151 Francis P. Whitehall  
acting Secnav*

**Copy to:**

Department of the Army (with encl)  
Department of the Air Force (with encl)

Originated by LCDR C E HERRICK (OP215B)  
X-54418 ... 9 Jan 53 ..... Felker  
Rewritten per OP-02 ... 21 Jan 53 ... Felker

EXECUTIVE ORDER 10403

TRANSFER OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE PORTION OF THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS WHICH INCLUDES THE ISLANDS OF TINIAN AND SAIPAN FROM THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

WHEREAS the administration of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (hereinafter referred to as the trust territory) was transferred to the Secretary of the Interior by Executive Order No. 10265 of June 29, 1951; and

WHEREAS the purposes of the trusteeship agreement approved by the Security Council of the United Nations on April 2, 1947, and by the United States Government on July 18, 1947, can better be effectuated by placing in the Secretary of the Navy the authority and responsibility for the administration of that portion of the trust territory which includes the islands of Tinian and Saipan:

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me as President of the United States, it is ordered as follows:

1. The administration of that portion of the trust territory which includes the islands of Tinian and Saipan is hereby transferred from the Secretary of the Interior to the Secretary of the Navy, such transfer to become effective on January 1, 1953.

2. When the transfer of administration made by this order becomes effective, the Secretary of the Navy shall take such action as may be necessary and appropriate, and in harmony with applicable law, for the administration of civil government in that portion of the trust territory which includes the islands of Tinian and Saipan and shall, subject to such policies as the President may from time to time prescribe and, when appropriate, in collaboration with other departments or agencies of the Government, carry out the obligations assumed by the United States as the administering authority of the trust territory under the terms of the trusteeship agreement approved by the United States on July 18, 1947, and under the Charter of the United Nations: Provided, however, That the authority to specify parts or all of either of such islands as closed for security reasons and to determine the extent to which Articles 87 and 88 of the Charter of the United Nations shall be applicable to such closed areas, in accordance with Article 13 of the trusteeship agreement, shall be exercised by the President: And provided further, That the Secretary of the Navy shall keep the Secretary of State currently informed of activities on such islands affecting the foreign policy of the United States and shall consult the Secretary of State on questions of policy concerning such islands which relate to the foreign policy of the United States, and that all relations between departments or agencies of the Government and appropriate organs of the United Nations with respect to such islands shall be conducted through the Secretary of State.

3. The executive departments and agencies of the Government are authorized and directed to cooperate with the Departments of the Navy and Interior in the effectuation of the provisions of this order.

4. To the extent that they pertain to the islands of Tinian and Saipan, the provisions of Executive Order No. 10265 of June 29, 1951, shall be superseded by the provisions of this order as of the date set out in the paragraph numbered 1, above.

HARRY S. TRUMAN

The White House,

November 10, 1952.

(F. R. Doc. 52-12144; Filed, Nov. 10, 1952; 3:09 p.m.)