

NAVAL ADMINISTRATION UNIT  
Saipan, M. I.

MEMORANDUM

30 Jan 1953

From: Native Affairs Officer  
To: Commanding Officer  
Subj: Native Affairs Office, report on

1. As of the above date, the economic affairs of the indigenes of the Saipan District can be stated as being in good condition. The Island of Saipan is earning its money primarily through day wages earned by working for the USN, FEF, and the two salvage companies. Every man who desires employment is on one of these payrolls. Happily there are a certain number of Saipanese who are not interested in working for other people and remain on their farms and raise produce for sale locally and to the Air Force on Guam and the Naval Supply Depot, Guam. Disturbing word has been officially announced that the NavAdmin Unit, Saipan, must cut 120 indigenes from the payroll by 31 March 1953. Throwing this large number of men out of work in such a short period of time is bound to have an unfavorable reaction on the island's economy as a whole. It is hoped that some method will be able to be worked out whereby these men can be released over a year's period to give the island economy a better chance of re-adjusting itself.
2. The merchants of the islands of Tinian, Rota and Saipan rely entirely upon shipping from Guam furnished by locally owned craft. As present, this transportation is adequate and unless one of the present boats goes out of commission no immediate problems are anticipated.
3. The Island of Tinian appears to be balanced economically. Some employment is furnished by the Leprosarium and by the two salvage companies operating on that island. The balance of the able-bodied men are employed in agricultural pursuits with their produce being shipped out by plane to NSD, Guam. Considerable unrest among the indigeneous population on Tinian in the immediate past has been noticed due to the fact that their source of POI products from Saipan was disrupted. However, that problem has now been solved and will not be likely to occur again in the foreseeable future.
4. The Navy cattle herd on Tinian is currently presenting difficulties. Mr. Ostrander, civilian in charge of the cattle project has been on Guam in the hospital and has unbeknownst to NavAdmin, Saipan, requested a three months' leave of absence to run a USO Club on Guam. A representative of the Industrial Relations office on Guam has informed the writer that the request was denied. As Mr. Ostrander has not returned to Tinian his future plans are unknown. In the meantime, the cattle program seems to be lagging. It appears that the herd record books have not been set up, no brands or identifying numbers have been put on the cattle and they are reported as becoming quite wild and restless. Just recently twelve of the cattle have broken out of the pasture. Yesterday, personnel were sent to Tinian to repair the fences and corral the cattle. Native sources also reveal that our saddle horses are wild and unmanageable. We are endeavoring to locate within the command several Navy men with cattle experience and temporarily assign them to Tinian until Mr. Ostrander returns.
5. Rota continues to be self-sufficient from their sales of produce to the Guam market. The Rota air strip is at present in good condition but the ten miles of road between the strip and the small NavAdmin Unit is in great need of repair. The Navy native employes on the island consist of two part-time school teachers, one Insular Constabularyman, one health aide, one half-salary nurse, a mechanic, an electrician and a laborer. They all band together in their efforts to keep the air strip and road in condition, maintain the five miles of the former Japanese water system, maintain a generator for power in the Dispensary, and keep a crash jeep and an ambulance in operating condition. The 856 natives of Rota constantly request that an American representative be sent to Rota to help them in their deaily problems. It is hoped that we will eventually be able to locate

6. The inhabited islands to the North of Saipan namely Alamagan, Pagan and Agrihan, continue to produce copra at the rate of about 120 tons every two months. Unfortunately, due to extremely rough weather during October, November, December and January, the field trip ships were unable to pick up copra and there is quite a back log on these islands at present. This is not a serious problem as the copra will not deteriorate greatly while in storage. The writer unofficially understands that the LSM 448 is undergoing certain remodeling and will be assigned as our permanent field trip ship. This is indeed good news if true as the vessel is ideally suited for our purpose.

7. The agricultural section of the Native Affairs office is keeping up with past undertakings but can not branch out into new lines at the present time due to lack of labor resulting from a low budget allowance. The station itself with the nursery, cacao plantings, fruit trees, fowl and livestock is being maintained. In addition, time is being spent clearing the former Japanese Forestry Station in which we have experimental plantings of cacao. Some erosion control and reforestation work is being conducted on the Eastern side of the island. In addition we have established a very promising irrigation system for the dry season by piping water from an unused spring to a lower level.

8. Our top native employe, Mr. Ignacio Benavente, continues to act as the Agricultural Extension Agent and Veterinarian on the island, as well as having immediate supervision of the Agricultural Station. He travels to the other islands in meeting with the councils and is perfectly capable of being assigned to duty as field trip officer at any time. He is now on Tinian trying to alleviate the cattle ranch situation. However, Mr. Benavente is severely held back by the lack of transportation. Formerly, when transportation was available he was assigned an old jeep that had been remodelled into a pickup truck and he was on 24 hour call for any agricultural or veterinarian emergency. It is hoped that Mr. Benavente's transportation will be returned to him at an early date.

9. The Labor and Immigration section of the Native Affairs office is ably headed by Mr. Vicente de Leon Guerrero. Mr. Guerrero was recently complimented by the Industrial Relations office on Guam who inspected his labor records and methods and informed him that he was doing such a good job that the Navy officials could see no reason for changing his system and that it was adequate to supply accurate payroll information and labor records. At present, Mr. Guerrero has two indigeneous typists assisting him, but as one is leaving shortly for maternity reasons, he is going to endeavor to run his office without a replacement.

10. The Native Affairs office itself is maintained in the administration area of the unit. It is readily accessible to the indigenes at all times and island-wide notice has been issued that the Native Affairs officer is available either at his office or at his home on a 24 hour basis. Many natives who work during the day bring their problems to the writer at his home before and after working hours and on weekends. Mr. Benavente maintains a desk in the Native Affairs office. One clerk-typist is employed to do the routine typing, filing, library work, etc., which is necessary in the department. The Native Affairs officer is currently hempered in his work and relatively tied to his desk by the lack of transportation. It is hoped that in the near future more transportation will be made available.

11. During the regime of the Interior Department, \$7,800.00 of no-appropriated funds were allotted for the establishment of a coffee project on Saipan. This project was in full swing and the harvest season was at its height when the news was announced that the Navy was again taking control of Saipan. Upon receipt of this news, the Interior Department cut off the project funds and we have been limping along ever since. We would like very much to know if funds will be available for the continuation of this project. The writer would personally like to see the program continue through one more harvest season at which time we would be able to ascertain if the rehabilitation of the former Japanese coffee plantations would be economically feasible.

12. In conclusion, the writer feels that the Native Affairs office, with its responsibilities to the political and economical welfare of the natives, will be able to maintain its present rate of efficiency. However, when the Navy regime has firmly planted their feet under their...

QUARTERLY REPORT AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1952  
 LAND MANAGEMENT OFFICE  
 SAIPAN M.I.

C. STATUS OF LANDS

1. Ownership

Municipality	Area Acres	Gov't Owned Land	Privately Owned Land	Gov't Ownership Disputed Acres	Gov't Occupied Acres	Japanese Alien Owned Acres
Saipan	29,824	18,787	5,172	3,648	Unknown	2,217
Rota	21,056	18,624	2,432	None		
Tinian	25,152	25,152	None	None		
TOTAL	76,032	62,563	7,604	3,648		2,217

\* Includes urban property.  
 Note: Island not inhabited are not reported

a. Land Usage by Natives

Municipality	Government Owned Acres Used	Private Owned Acres Used	Total
Saipan	8,188	2,260	10,448
Rota	4,224	2,432	6,656
Tinian	1,141	None Owned	1,141
TOTAL	13,553	4,692	18,245

NOTE: The above figures do not include the following:

- Chalan Kanoa Village . . . . . 206 acres
- 284 Government owned houses rent free
- 317 Privately owned houses - building materials furnished free by U. S. Government
- Oleai Village . . . . . 52 acres
- 39 Houses built by indigenes - building material furnished free by U. S. Government
- Aslito Village . . . . . 23 acres
- 15 houses furnished free by U.S. Government
- San Antonio Village . . . . . 51 acres
- 127 houses furnished free by U.S. Government
- San Roque Village . . . . . 36 acres
- 16 Houses furnished free by U.S. Government
- Tuturam Village . . . . . 12 acres
- 12 houses furnished free by U.S. Government
- Tanapag Village . . . . . 17 acres
- Building materials furnished free by U. S. Government

C. CLAIMS

(a) Land

(a) Land Ownershi, Claims

	<u>NATIVE</u>	<u>ALIEN</u>	
Claims previously filed	<u>690</u>	<u>390</u>	
Claims filed this quarter	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	
Total claims to date	<u>690</u>	<u>390</u>	1080
Claims completed this quarter	<u>189</u>	<u>-0-</u>	
Claims completed this date	<u>432</u>	<u>1</u>	433
Claims pending this date	<u>258</u>	<u>389</u>	647

(b) Real Property rental calims against U.S. Government

Claims previously filed	<u>6 6</u>	<u>-0-</u>
Claims filed this quarter	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>

(c) Real Property damage claims against U. S. Government

Claims previously filed	<u>5</u>	<u>-0-</u>
Claims filed this quarter	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>

C O P Y

~~SECRET~~

11 February 1953

## OPERATIONS

### 1. Communications.

The building located on Kobler Field is adequate and with the minimum routine maintenance, including painting could be placed in satisfactory condition. A space room inside the building is provided which could be used as an Aerology station.

The radio station under the Department of Interior had one American and four Indigenous personnel. The four indigenous were retained by the navy after the change-over period.

The integral equipment appeared satisfactory. A complete investigation was made of all the spare parts by Interior personnel and navy personnel. Message traffic control had fallen short of navy standards and has left much to be desired. More drastic changes in rating and follow up had to be inaugurated. The first day a coding room was built in the radio room and some of the quipment was relocated for better utilization of space.

## POST OFFICE

The Post Office was in operation under a civilian post-master. The operation was not inspected to determine if mail was being handled expeditiously and carefully. The building and premises are adequate. The hours of operation were posted and the proper security measures have been taken.

## SMALL BOATS

According to the agreement, two LCM's and 1 motor launch were to be transferred. A dispatch was sent to COMNAVMARIANAS requesting a suitable replacement for an LCM.

The two LCM's turned over were inspected by the Ship Repair Facility personnel and are to be transferred to Ship Repair for overhaul and repair.

Routine maintenance and operation of the service craft to lend support to Tinian was not provided. The craft had no record or reports or machinery history cards.

## FIRE FIGHTING AND SAFETY

There was no automatic fire apparatus, only a truck with a large water tank. The pump was not able to maintain any effective hose streaming. The vehicle was in poor to very unsatisfactory condition. Few of the CO2 fire extinguishers were at the proper stations and those which were, were not filled, weighed or tagged.

Much debris and burnable trash was noticeable in all the housing areas. Garbage disposal cans were available but with no organized pick-up system was in effect.

There was no Radiological, Bacteriological or Chemical Warfare Defense program or any written material that such a program was written up or placed in effect.

The noticeable failure in Fire Department was:

- (1) No indoctrination program of personnel.
- (2) No official inspections.
- (3) No reports of any corrective fire measures taken.
- (4) No fire drills.

PORT CONTROL

There are no harbor net communications or visual communications. No weather reports or storm warnings were issued or was there any typhoon tracing.

The piers and facilities are unsatisfactory and if any long continued operation is anticipated the fender pilings, fresh water fire fighting and asphalt paving should be replaced.

# REPORT OF MEDICAL FACILITIES FOUND IN THE SAIPAN DISTRICT

## GENERAL

The hospital operated by the Trust Territories on Saipan is composed of approximately twenty-three quonsets, two elephant huts, and one permanent, concrete building designated as the psychiatric ward. Physical space is available for the care of over two hundred in-patients, but the facilities and personnel are not adequate to take care of more than about 50 patients. The average daily census is slightly less than that figure. All but a few of the patients are indigenous, and of these the largest single category consists of adult tuberculous patients. The obstetrical and pediatric services are also active. There is a rapid turn-over of patients other than those suffering from tuberculosis.

The general condition of the hospital is poor.

## LAYOUT

The wards of the hospital, with the exception of the psychiatric unit, are located in two widely separated rows. Many of the structures are empty and not all buildings currently utilized as wards are adjacent to each other. Between the parallel rows of quonsets are located several other structures utilized as 1. an eye, ear, nose, and throat clinic and operating room; 2. an administrative office; 3. a building containing two operating rooms, a delivery room, and central supply. The psychiatric unit is several hundred feet away from the main portion of the hospital. The layout is not conducive to efficient utilization of man-power and time.

## FACILITIES

The wards although for the most part structurally sound, are dirty and rat infested. Beds are rusty and mattresses moldy. The linen supply is grossly inadequate, many of the patients being forced to bring their own linen. No ward is equipped with an examining room or table, nor does the hospital have an admission room, the patients being brought directly to the ward and receiving their preliminary examination in bed. There are medicine cabinets on only a few wards, and the keys to them are missing. On other wards, medicines are kept on open shelves. Therefore, narcotics must be issued at the time of use from one lock-box located in the administration office, and other drugs, including anti-biotics, are subject to continuous pilferage. Plumbing facilities are poor in the patients' laboratories, and there are no separate sinks where the staff may wash their hands. One sink is available on some of the wards for rinsing dishes, rinsing instruments and gloves, and for hand washing. There are no sterilizers or supply cabinets on the ward, so that sterile equipment must be obtained at the time of use from central supply. There are no provisions for the separate disposal of contaminated material.

The pediatric ward is equipped with wooden-sided cribs whose sides cannot be raised or lowered, making examination of the patients difficult. These cribs are most difficult to clean.

The labor and post-partum ward shares the same quonset as the women's medical ward, exposing both the post-partum patient and the newborn to contamination and violating basic principles in the care of the newborn and their mothers. There is no nursery, the infants occupying a screened-off portion of the obstetrical (pre- and post-partum) ward. Incubators and other equipment necessary for the care of premature or sick newborn are lacking. Conditions are such that dependent wives of Navy personnel should be evacuated to the U.S. Naval Hospital, Guam, even when a normal delivery and a healthy infant are anticipated.

The eye clinic is located in a suitable structure, but it is not well equipped. The operating and delivery rooms and the central supply are ade-

The use of the same table for doing deliveries and for the examination and treatment of infectious gynecological disease is most undesirable.

The dental clinic is in good operating condition and has been well maintained. Laboratory facilities are not available for dental or any other category of out-patients.

The psychiatric unit is housed in a permanent concrete structure. Illumination and ventilation are poor, however. Those portions of the unit, which would be used as semi-open wards for men and women are not equipped with beds.

The linen room, pharmacy, clinical laboratory, and x-ray departments are located in one building, but these departments are not walled or screened off from each other. Anyone in the building has free access to the other departments and most of their stock, which is lying on open shelves. All of these departments are reasonably well equipped, although only outdated x-ray film and a very small supply of developing solutions were inherited from the department of the Interior.

Supplies have been kept in a slovenly way, scattered about the warehouses and uncatalogued. Small items of equipment, basic to the operation of even the smallest hospital are not available. On the other hand, a large amount of expensive equipment in an advanced state of disrepair was collected in open-ended storing places, suffering further deterioration. Some of this equipment might once have been reclaimable, but there is no evidence that any medical repair work had ever been done. There were no functioning oxygen tents, electrocardiographic or ECG machines, or ophthalmoscopic sets although deteriorated equipment in each category was seen. Broken-down autoclaves, x-ray machines, and large eye instruments were also collected in various open-ended storage places. Some equipment, exposed to the elements, was allowed to deteriorate in the crates in which it had been received. Although there is not a single examining table on any ward of the hospital, at least six packaged portable operating tables were discovered.

A ninety-day supply of expendable materials was supposed to have been left to the Navy by the Department of Interior, but stocks of many frequently used items were near exhaustion.

Grossly unsanitary conditions prevailed in the galley at the time of the turn-over, and much heavy equipment is in an advanced stage of deterioration. Equipment in the laundry has similarly deteriorated.

#### MAINTENANCE

Maintenance has been poor. No painting seems to have been done within the recent past. Electrical wiring has needed extensive revision. The transportation available to the hospital consists of one ambulance, which broke down on an emergency run 11 January 1953. Two jeep-type vehicle used to spray insecticide completed the hospital's motor pool. This vehicle, although badly deteriorated, still operates.

#### PERSONNEL

Personnel provides one of the few bright spots in the description of the hospital on Saipan. Although Stateside supervisory personnel varied from poor to fair, many of the indigenous personnel varied from good to excellent. Two indigenous medical practitioners, trained by the Navy at its medical school on Guam, practice good general medicine. One of these men has had a small amount of further training in eye work. The dental practitioner runs an efficient department. Some of the indigenous nurses, a few of whom have been trained on Guam and other islands, are also excellent. Others vary from good to poor.



## RECORDS

Lt. W. McQueen MSC USN has evaluated the records of the hospital as follows:

"The records of the hospital are, in general, good. For the most part, reports were a carry-over of the system instituted by the Navy during the period of Naval Administration.

"Reporting of immunizations, admissions, discharges, out-patient care, births, and deaths was very good. Clinical charts are good.

"Property and supplies records are poor. The cardex system was used; however, many cards show only a stock number without additional descriptive data. In many instances, quantity recorded did not correspond with the quantity located on inventory. There is no location data record."

## SANITATION & PUBLIC HEALTH

Clinics are maintained in the various villages and are staffed by semi-trained indigenous nurses and are visited by medical practitioners. The clinic at Chalan Kanoa is run by a "physician, Grade six," but long years of experience have been his only training. Pre-natal and neonatal care are apparently adequate, and routine immunizations are given as required.

The water supply is crudely and ineffectively chlorinated. Sewage disposal is grossly unsatisfactory, and rat and mosquito control do not seem to be effective. Garbage disposal is unsatisfactory.

## TINIAN

The situation on Tinian has not been adequately studied at this time, but available reports would seem to justify the statement that the problems of operating the leprosarium and those concerning sanitation and public health are similar to those already described for the hospital and sanitation on Saipan, except that an even greater state of disintegration must be overcome on Tinian.

## CONCLUSION

Extensive renovations and large expenditures for supplies and equipment must be made in order to put the Saipan hospital and the Leprosarium on Tinian into reasonably decent condition. A monumental task confronts us in the fields of public health and sanitation.

JANUARY 1953.

SUBMITTED:

M.E. FREEDMAN, LT MC USNR