

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
Washington 25, D. C.

cc: W/Gen. Baber - Army  
R. Adm. Mann - Navy  
W/Gen. Eaton - AF

JAN 4 1953

Dear Mr. Dodge:

The inclosed draft of a proposed Executive Order "Amending Executive Order 10408, transferring 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," is forwarded with the request that it be submitted to the President for his approval and signature.

Executive Order 10408 transferred the administration of that 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, effective January 1, 1953. The purpose of the inclosed draft Executive Order is to include the remaining islands of the Northern Marianas in that transfer of administration.

Approximately 83% of the permanent native population of the Northern Mariana Islands resides on the two islands of Tinian and Saipan. In addition, Saipan is the administrative center of the entire district. All political, economic, medical, educational and cultural activities operate around Saipan as the focal point.

With the transferring of administration of Saipan and Tinian to the Secretary of the Navy, the remaining islands of the Northern Marianas have become a difficult problem of effective and economical administration. The High Commissioner of the Trust Territory has recognized the problem and has recommended the transfer of administration set forth in the accompanying proposed Executive Order.

The Departments of State and the Interior by letters dated January 5, 1953, and December 30, 1952, respectively, to the Secretary of the Navy concurred in this proposal. Copies of those letters are inclosed.

Sincerely yours,

**(SIGNED)** ROGER KENT  
ROGER KENT  
General Counsel

Inclosures

Honorable Joseph M. Dodge  
Director  
Bureau of the Budget

To G. A. O.

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