

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Office of the Secretary
Washington 25, D. C.

OCT 22, 1953

My dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is in reply to Acting Secretary Whitehair's letter of January 28, 1953, regarding the proposed agreement between the Department of the Navy and the Department of the Interior with respect to the transfer of the administration of the Northern Mariana Islands under Executive Order 10408 of November 10, 1952.

Since the receipt of Acting Secretary Whitehair's letter, Executive Order 10408 has been amended by Executive Order 10470 of July 17, 1953, which transferred the administration of all islands in the Northern Marianas, with the exception of Rota, to the Department of the Navy. I approve the proposed agreement that was enclosed in Acting Secretary Whitehair's letter with the substitution of the enclosed pages numbered 1, 2 and 3 for pages 1 and 2 of the draft, the enclosed page 7 for page 7, and the enclosed page 23 for page 23. The revisions contained in these substitute pages have been discussed and agreed upon by representatives of our two Departments.

If the draft agreement as amended by the substitute pages is acceptable to the Department of the Navy, this letter may be regarded as the Department of the Interior's approval and acceptance of the agreement as thus amended. I would appreciate being advised whether the Department of the Navy finds the amended agreement acceptable.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Douglas McKay
Secretary of the Interior

Hon. Robert B. Anderson
Secretary of the Navy
Washington 25, D. C.

Enclosure

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 GOVERNMENT OF THE SAIPAN DISTRICT
OF THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

The President of the United States by Executive Order 10265 executed on June 29, 1951 directed that the administration of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, hereinafter referred to as "Trust Territory", be transferred from the Secretary of the Navy to the Secretary of the Interior, effective July 1, 1951. The President of the United States has now, by Executive Order 10408 executed on November 10, 1952, ordered that the administration of that portion of the Trust Territory which includes the islands of Tinian and Saipan be transferred from the Secretary of the Interior to the Secretary of the Navy, effective January 1, 1953 and further, has by Executive Order 10470 executed on July 17, 1953 amended Executive Order No. 10408 of November 10, 1952, transferring 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, to provide that that portion of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands over which administration is transferred from the Secretary of the Interior to the Secretary of the Navy shall include all of the Northern Mariana Islands of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands except the Island of Rota.

For the purposes of this Agreement, that portion of the Trust Territory to be administered by the Department of the Navy under Executive Order 10408 as amended by Executive Order 10470 will be that area known as the Saipan District which consists of those islands of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and the Territorial waters thereof, which lie north of 14-20 degrees north latitude, and west of 150 degrees east longitude. Thirteen island units, and several reefs,

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comprise the exposed portion of the Saipan District. It extends in a slight crescent from Uracas (Farrallon de Pajaros) in the north to south of Aguijan - a distance of about 530 miles. There are a total of 18 separate islands having a total land area of 121.118 square miles in the group. These islands are: Uracas or Farrallon de Pajaros (1), Maug (3), Asuncion (1), Agrihan (1), Pagan (1), Alamagan (1), Guguan (1), Sarigan (1), Anatahan (1), Farrallon de Medinilla (1), Saipan (3), Tinian (1), Aguijan (2).

Conditions of the Agreement heretofore executed by the Department of the Navy and the Department of the Interior with respect to the transfer of responsibility for the administration of the Government of the Trust Territory, under Executive Order 10265, hereinafter referred to as the "Original Transfer Agreement", shall remain in full force and effect after January 1, 1953, except that insofar as such conditions are applicable to the Saipan District, they shall be of no further force and effect.

The administrative responsibility of the Saipan District will be exercised by the Secretary of the Navy through the normal chain of administrative command, namely, Chief of Naval Operations, Commander in Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet, Commander Naval Forces Marianas and the Civil Administrator of the Saipan District.

Except as may be otherwise provided in this Agreement or any other agreement between the two Departments, it is agreed that the administration of the Saipan District by the Department of the Navy shall become independent of the administration of the balance of the Trust Territory by the Department of the Interior as soon as practicable following the date of transfer.

The Department of the Navy and the Department of the Interior will endeavor to coordinate their various programs including but not limited to those affecting economics, agriculture, public health, education and legislation.

HICOMTERPACIS AND CINCPACFLT are authorized to deal directly with each other in effecting such coordination. The Department of the Navy and the Department of the Interior will be kept appropriately informed.

It is further agreed as follows:

ARTICLE 1

LOGISTICS

Section D - Surface Transportation

1. Surface Transportation for the Saipan District will become a responsibility of the Department of the Navy on and after the date of transfer and will be provided by CINCPACFLT through normal channels. COMNAVMIANAS will be the Naval Force Commander responsible for provision of surface transportation. COMSERVPAC will provide support as appropriate.
2. The small craft listed in Annex B, will be returned to the Department of the Navy by the Department of the Interior. It is understood that the small craft listed in Annex B were originally transferred by the Department of the Navy to the Department of the Interior pursuant to the terms of the Original Transfer Agreement.
3. The Department of the Navy will assume no responsibility in connection with administration of the contract or operations of the Pacific Micronesian Line.

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ANNEX C

ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT AND ASSOCIATED SPARE PARTS AND MATERIAL

TO BE TRANSFERRED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR TO

THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

- 1 TBM
- 1 TAB or TBU (furnished subsequent to 1 July 1951)
- 2 TCK
- *3 TCS
- 1 RAK
- 4 RAL (furnished subsequent to 1 July 1951)
- 2 RAO
- 1 MM

*2 for Saipan, 1 for Tinian

Electronic test equipment allowance indicated as on hand in enclosure (2)

to BUSHIPS serial 910-2628 of 18 September 1950, as follows:

- 1 TS-297/U Series Multimeter
- 1 CE Series Multimeter
- 1 OBQ Series Multimeter
- 1 Oscilloscope Dumont 241
- 2 LM-18 Frequency Meter
- 1 IAJ Audio Frequency Signal Generator (furnished subsequent to 1 July 1951)
- 1 IP Radio Frequency Signal Generator
- 1 TV-3/U Tube Analyzer