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From: Naval Administrator, U. S. Naval Administration Unit, Saipan District, Saipan, Mariana Islands

To: Chief of Naval Operations

Via: (1) Commander Naval Forces Marianas
(2) Commander in Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet

Subj: Claims of Saipanese people against the Japanese Government and/or Japanese Corporations; submission of

Ref: (a) COMNAVMAIRIANS First Endorsement FF5-9/40 NI-1 ser 2091 of 11 June 1956 to NAVAD Saipan ltr JH:stp NI-1 ser 579 of 2 May 1956

Encl: (1) War damage claims (total 1088)
(2) List of persons who died as result of hostilities
(3) List of persons seriously injured during hostilities

1. Reference (a) requested that the Naval Administrator compile and submit to Chief of Naval Operations through the chain of command all claims on file against the Japanese Government and Japanese Corporations.

2. Claims of the Saipanese fall into 2 major categories:

a. Claims against the United States Government for:

(1) Japanese currency held by the people and turned over to U. S. Military authorities upon the occupation, and

(2) Damage to property by the U. S. Military Forces after the date of securing of the Island July 9, 1944.

By payment of \$2,500.00 to 57 claimants on the 2nd day of November 1954, the administering authority settled claims under 2.a.(1) above. However, some of the enclosed claims state that the individual had cash in the form of yen, meaning that that amount was lost or destroyed during the invasion of Saipan for which there has never been reimbursement. By the land damage exchange program most persons whose lands and improvements thereon were damaged have been adequately compensated by the exchange of government land and the relative few who

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were not compensated declined in writing an offer by the government to exchange. Thus claims under 2.a.(2) above have been settled.

b. Claims against the Japanese Government and Japanese Corporations for:

- (1) Japanese postal savings and war bonds,
- (2) Destruction of real and personal property during hostilities,
- (3) Insurance policies for paid in value (amounts claimed are based on premiums paid)
- (4) Securities such as stocks and bonds of corporations and,
- (5) Loss of life and personal injury.

Although no claims for loss of life or personal injury have been officially or unofficially submitted as such, enclosures (2) and (3) are forwarded to complete the overall picture and for any action deemed necessary by higher authority.

3. Enclosure (1) is submitted in compliance with instructions contained in reference (a) and consists of One Thousand and Eight Eight individual claims totalling \$ 5,995,375.56 and \$2,805.00 U. S. currency held at the time of the invasion. These claims were compiled from the records of several offices at this activity, records at the Catholic Church and from a canvass of the residents of the Saipan District. The claims include property damage and loss principally on Saipan. However, some damages are claimed on other Islands such as Yap, Palau and Rota. A majority of the latter claimants are those Trust Territory Citizens who were domiciled on other Islands during the war but have since taken up residence in the Saipan District.

It should be noted that most of the claims of record pertaining to the categories of claims against the Japanese were amassed informally a short time after the invasion of Saipan and apparently no thorough investigations were conducted and no formal claims were compiled subsequent to the accumulation of the basic data contained in enclosure (1). Thus it can be seen that the claims filed by the indigenous inhabitants lack substantiating evidence. Their original documents have been lost or destroyed. However, as stated by one responsible individual that "when the information was being collected the people were too scared to tell anything but the truth".

There appears to be a duplication of claims made by the same person, however, this is because many individuals on Saipan have identical names.

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4. Enclosure (2) contains the names of 419 persons of whom 232 were killed by hostilities, 13 are missing and presumed dead and 174 died as a direct result of combat created conditions. The causes of death as listed in this enclosure are:

1. Bombardment: (Shelling by the U. S. Navy off-shore warships).
2. Gunfire: (Small arms fire and artillery shelling by and between the land combatants).
3. Aerial bombing: (Bombs dropped by aircraft).
4. Missing: (Of the thirteen missing only one disappeared on Saipan presumably demolished by bombardment. The remainder disappeared on Guam or New Guinea).
5. Torpedoed: (Sailors serving aboard Japanese merchant ships torpedoed by U. S. Submarines).
6. Combat fatality: (Persons badly injured or made seriously ill by the effect and consequences of warfare and who died as a result thereof).

5. Enclosure (3) lists 28 persons known to have been seriously injured. During the confusion attendant at the time of the invasion no known records were kept of casualties. Thus no complete list is available.

6. From the best information available locally, it is believed that enclosure (1) represents the first submission of detailed individual claims to higher authority.

P. W. AVILA

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APRONARIAS (less encls)