

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

3 OCT 1959

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We are writing at this time to again request that the Department of the Navy give consideration to establishing a single administration for the islands of the Trust Territory in the Marianas.

We originally made this request by letter of April 22, 1958, in which we proposed that the island of Rota be placed under Navy administration. By reply of May 3, 1958, the Acting Secretary of the Navy stated that it was not then considered desirable for the Navy to extend its civil government functions in the Trust Territory. However, this reply also expressed the view that the desirability of consolidating the Rota and Saipan District should be reviewed on an annual basis.

Accordingly, with the lapse of more than one year since this exchange of correspondence, we request that this subject again be given your consideration. The justifications for transfer of the Rota administration to the Navy Department which were set forth in our letter of April 22, 1958 are still valid.

Discussions at the meeting of the Trusteeship Council earlier this year pointed to the desirability, in the minds of Council members, of bringing Rota and the Saipan District under a single administration. In its recommendations and conclusions regarding the administration of the territory, the Council reiterated the hope expressed in its previous report that the United States will continue to keep under review the possibility of placing the entire Trust Territory under a single civilian authority.

Accordingly, should the Department of the Navy desire to transfer administrative responsibility for the Saipan District to the Department of the Interior, we would accept. Alternatively, we request that the Department of the Navy accept responsibility for the administration of Rota.

Sincerely yours,

Hon. William B. Franke
Secretary of the Navy
Washington 25, D. C.

Secretary of the Interior