

<p style="text-align: center;">DECLASSIFIED</p> <p>Authority <u>E012758</u></p>

CONFIDENTIAL**CONFIDENTIAL****MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY**

Subj: Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands; administration
of

1. Assistant Secretary of the Interior Carver, Mr. Jonathan Mangham, United States Representative on the Trusteeship Council, United Nations and other officials from the Department of the Interior recently returned from an inspection of the Trust Territory. Upon their return to Honolulu, Mr. Carver was reported to have suggested that the Navy should consider the matter of taking more responsibility in administering the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands by providing air and surface logistic support for the entire Trust Territory, not just the Saipan District. The latter area is administered by the Navy pursuant to Executive Orders of 1952 and 1953 because of a highly sensitive operation on Saipan by another branch of the Government. Representatives of this "branch" have recently indicated that while they prefer maintaining the status quo, they could, and would, continue operation under Interior.
2. By letter dated 17 December 1959 the Under Secretary of the Navy informed the Secretary of the Interior that, in answer to his request, the Navy Department was prepared to transfer administrative responsibility of the Saipan District to the Department of the Interior. Following a subsequent inspection of the area by Interior representatives, that Department verbally withdrew their request.

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3. Divided administration of the Trust Territory has been a critical issue at past Trusteeship Council hearings. Through the years, the Council has recommended that the administration of the Territory be under a single civilian authority.
4. On 6 June a meeting was held at the State Department to review critical issues that would be raised at the Council session that convenes on 12 June. Captain L. G. Findley, Head, Civil Affairs and Navy Department Continuity Plans Branch in OPNAV, attended. Also in attendance were Mr. Jonathan Bingham, Mr. Carver, Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Organization Affairs Woodruff Wallner and representatives from the Agency. During the discussion Mr. Carver introduced the matter of the Navy taking on more administrative responsibility involving the whole Trust Territory and indicated that a letter would be forthcoming to SECNAV setting forth the reasons for the proposal.
5. Recommended Navy position: No additional administrative responsibility in the Trust Territory be absorbed by the Navy from Interior. Further, the Navy make plans to provide for an orderly transfer of the administration of the Saipan District to Interior.

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