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Authority E012958

18 July 1961

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Subj: Transfer of Responsibility for Administration of Saipan District from the Navy Department to the Interior Department (U)

Ref: (a) SECINTERIOR ltr of 9 Jun 1961 to SECNAV
 (b) SECNAV ltr Ser 277P09B2 of 20 Jun 1961 to SECINTERIOR
 (c) ASTSECINTERIOR ltr of 12 July 1961 to SECNAV

1. References (a), (b) and (c) concern a proposal from the Secretary of Interior to transfer the responsibility for the administration of the Saipan District, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands from the Department of the Navy to the Department of the Interior.

2. The two Secretaries having agreed in principle to the transfer, a meeting was held this date to formulate plans and procedures to effect an orderly transfer of administration on or about 1 July 1962. The following representatives of the Navy and Interior Departments attended:

Interior: Richard F. Taitano, Director of the Office of Territories

Delmas H. Nucker, Office of Territories

Navy: RADM G. R. Donaho, ASST VCNO/Director Naval Administration

CAPT S. Katz, OP-09B11

CAPT L. G. Findley, OP-09B22

CDR C.E. Herrick, OP-09B22C

3. Interior led off the discussion with some questions pertaining to the expected tenure of NTFU on Saipan and logistic support required. Interior was advised that the proposed transfer had been discussed with the agency sponsoring NTFU and the Agency had informed the Navy they did not have any current plans for withdrawing operations from Saipan. Interior was informed of logistic support arrangements provided NTFU through their own vessel the FOUR WINDS and their own aircraft.

4. At the Navy's suggestion Interior agreed to prepare the necessary Executive Order cancelling Executive Orders 10470 and 10408 covering the present naval administration of Saipan and the transfer of this responsibility to the Secretary of Interior.

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5. Interior inquired as to whether they would be able to place a District Administrator and certain staff members for Saipan on Navy rolls for a short period prior to the actual transfer on 1 July 1962, in order to provide a smooth turnover of administration. They were advised in the affirmative.

6. Interior was advised that the turnover of administrative responsibility would follow the pattern previously established in 1950-51 and 1952 covering prior transfers between the Navy and Interior. This would include a general transfer of all facilities and equipment on a non-reimbursable basis.

7. Relative to budgeting for FY 1963 operations of the Naval Administration Unit Saipan, Interior was advised that this had already gone forward in the Navy's budget for FY 1963. Ultimate disposition of these funds would require a decision by the Bureau of the Budget.

8. Interior requested that announcement of the proposed transfer to the field commands concerned be withheld temporarily, pending further discussions by their representatives with ASTSEC/INTERIOR John A. Carver. It was so agreed.

G. E. MERRICK
Commander, USN

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