

Saipan, Tinian Will Be Shifted To Civilian Rule

By FRANK HEWLETT
Star-Bulletin Bureau

WASHINGTON, Oct. 26—The Kennedy Administration is going to shift the northern Marianas Islands of Saipan and Tinian from military to civilian control.

This was learned today from high Interior and Navy Department sources.

Coupled with the action earlier this year in throwing Guam open to visitors without Naval security clearance, the moves represent a substantial step toward ending military control of civilian areas owned or controlled by the U.S.

Lying north of Guam, Saipan and Tinian were captured by U.S. forces in World War II and have served as Pacific airbases since that time.

Tinian has 32 square miles, Saipan is somewhat larger.

Cattle grazing and vegetable growing are being developed on the islands in place of a pre-war sugar industry.

Tinian has great pre-historic ruins consisting of pyramids of masonry which could be turned into an important tourist attraction.

Since 1951 Saipan and Tinian have been administered by the Navy Department under an executive order issued by then President Truman. The rest of the former Japanese mandate islands is under the Interior Department.

An agreement reportedly has been reached to shift the islands from Navy to Interior Department control but the date has not been set.

Such a transfer will require an executive order by President Kennedy.

Interior sources said it is planned to put Saipan and Tinian under the administration of High Commissioner Wilfred M. Goding of the Trust Territory of the Pacific. His headquarters is on Guam but Goding is now in Washington for conferences.

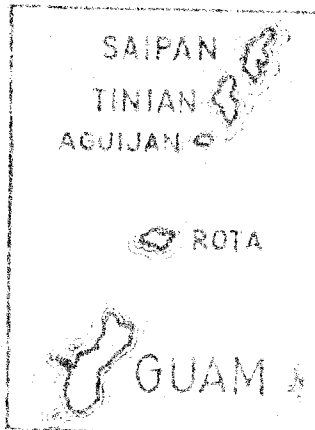
They said some effort was being made to put the islands under Guam's Governor William Daniel but the Interior Department has no intentions of doing so.

All the Navy would say for publication was that negotiations to transfer the administration of the islands to the Interior Department control were "still in progress."

A spokesman referred the Star Bulletin to the following statement by Goding before the Trusteeship Council of the United Nations on June 23 of this year:

The United States delegation has also been glad to hear the views of the visiting mission and members of the council with respect to the desirability of unifying the administration of the entire territory under the high commissioner.

"As we have already stated to the council, this matter has been receiving most careful attention at the



30 OCTOBER
HONOLULU

STAR-BULLETIN