

2 November 1961

MEMORANDUM

From: 14
To: 1

Subj: Item for discussion with cognizant OPNAV personnel

1. It now seems fairly firm that the administration of the Saipan District will be transferred from Navy to Interior. The probable target date for transfer is 1 July 1962.
2. It is assumed that no CINCPACFLT participation will be required in the preparation of the Presidential Executive Order.
3. When Saipan was transferred from Interior to Navy on 1 January 1953 the details of the transfer were worked out between CINCPACFLT and HICOMTERPACIS. At that time, however, HICOMTERPACIS was located in Honolulu and effective liaison was a relatively simple matter.
4. It is considered that, under current conditions, COMNAVMARIANAS is the logical command to work out the details of the impending transfer. If CINCPACFLT is to be charged with this task, it should be done in such a manner that the bulk of the details can be delegated to COMNAVMARIANAS.
5. There is excellent liaison between COMNAVMARIANAS and HICOMTERPACIS. With previous "Transfer Agreements" available as guidelines, the details should not be difficult to work out.
6. It is assumed that the majority of the Naval property at Saipan will be turned over to Interior. Probably without reimbursement. There is, however, a considerable amount of Naval Stock Account property located at Saipan. This property, if transferred, will have to be the subject of reimbursement. Navy Exchange, Commissary, Club, and Welfare and Recreation property should also be transferred on a reimbursable basis. It is hoped that Interior will agree to continue the education of the six Saipan Scholarship Students presently enrolled at the University of Hawaii. The Charter of the Saipan Trust Fund states that the funds therein will be transferred "to the lawful authority succeeding CINCPACFLT for custody and use for the benefit of the indigenous inhabitants of the Saipan District". It will be difficult to enforce the provision pertaining to use of the funds only for the "Saipan District residents" after the funds have actually been transferred, but it should be possible to work some sort of commitment into the agreement which would cover the continuation of schooling for the present Scholarship Students. As a practical matter, I suspect that HICOMTERPACIS will consolidate the funds from the Trust Fund into his Territory-wide Local Revenue Fund equivalent.

Saipan Transfer

7. It will be desirable for HICOMTERPACIS to get his personnel to Saipan well ahead of the turnover date. This will allow the Navy to phase-out personnel in an orderly manner and will ensure that the Navy will not have to provide personnel after the actual turnover date. With six months lead time and an existing organized Personnel Department at HICOMTERPACIS Headquarters on Guam, there is no reason that this can not be done.

8. There is one facet of this matter that should be closely scrutinized. That is the matter of security for the Trust Territory. As I understand it, the existing inter-departmental agreement is based on the "existing emergency". This referred to the Korean Emergency. This "Emergency" has not been revoked but it has been considerably whittled away. There should be some definite provision to keep DOD in the Trust Territory picture from the security standpoint. The surest way to do it would be to work such a provision directly into the forthcoming Executive Order. I do not think that DOD's exact tasks should be specifically spelled out. I feel that DOD's status should be permissive rather than mandatory. DOD should be in a position to be able to apply whatever security control is considered necessary without reference to or permission from Interior or any other Department. This would cover air and surface surveillance, control of entry of persons, vessels and aircraft and the authority to close off completely any portion of the area. I realize that this is asking for quite a bit and will undoubtedly encounter considerable opposition, but I feel that it is essential to the security of the United States.

Very respectfully,

R. D. Law, Jr.
R. D. LAW, JR.