



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF TERRITORIES
Washington 25, D. C.

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Rear Admiral G. R. Donaho
Assistant Vice Chief of Naval Operations
Director of Naval Administration
Department of the Navy
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Admiral Donaho:

During the conference which you had with High Commissioner Goding, it was tentatively agreed that a press release would be drafted which, in turn, would be issued by Mr. Goding and Admiral Coye on Guam. We had some weeks ago concluded that the release was unnecessary because of Guam newspaper publicity given the impending transfer of the Saipan District to this Department. However, Mr. Goding has since advised us that he believes that it is important that the transfer date be announced soon to alleviate uncertainty among the civilian population of the Saipan District. He states that the uncertainty will make the Navy's administrative job more difficult in the ensuing six months and that it will complicate Interior's work in assuming administration of the District.

We have, therefore, drafted the enclosed press release which we submit for your review and suggestions. We propose, after incorporating your comments, to send the release to Mr. Goding requesting that he and Admiral Coye jointly make the announcement.

Pending receipt of your views, we have brought a copy of this letter and the draft release to the attention of the Office of Dependent Area Affairs, Department of State.

Sincerely yours,


Richard F. Taitano
Director

Enclosure

DRAFT PRESS RELEASE

Transfer of the Saipan District of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands to the Secretary of the Interior has been [tentatively] ^{9/18} set for July 1, 1962, High Commissioner M. W. Goding and Rear Admiral John S. Coye, Jr. announced today.

The reestablishment of civilian administration follows a careful review of the overall administration of the Trust Territory by the Navy and Interior Departments and is in accordance with a statement given the Trusteeship Council of the United Nations in June 1961. At that time High Commissioner Goding stated:

"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 highest level of our Government and I can now further say that the Departments concerned are agreed in principle that the administration of the Territory should be unified. The detailed steps for bringing about this unified administration are now in process of being worked out."

Discussions between the Departments of the Navy and the Interior have resulted in the selection of July 1, 1962, as an appropriate date for the transfer. Admiral Coye and High Commissioner Goding have been

requested to work out the details of the administrative transfer. In order to make specific plans for the future administration of the District, High Commissioner Goding plans to send a survey team to Saipan to confer with Navy administrators.