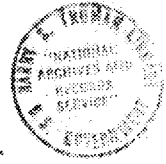


THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY  
WASHINGTON

134 N



11 AUG 1945



*Navy*  
MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

*x* Guam and the adjacent islands of the Marianas Group constitute the keystone of the proposed naval system for future control of the Western Pacific.

The Navy Department administered the Government of Guam, prior to its capture by the Japanese, under authority conferred by the Executive Order of December 23, 1898. Since recapture of Guam, administration has been under the Commander in Chief of the Pacific Fleet. The native population has prospered under naval rule. The native population ment would, therefore, involve no disadvantage to the civil population and would be a material element in the strategic strength of this vitally important base area.

In view of the foregoing I recommend that the pre-war form of naval government of Guam be continued, and that it be extended to include Saipan, Tinian, Rota and the other islands of the Marianas Group.

In connection with this matter I suggest consideration of the desirability of placing under naval government not only the Marianas, but also all islands taken from the Japanese and placed under United States control for strategic reasons, not including the Philippines. I refer, of course, only to the administration of normal government functions. I would expect the Army and Navy respectively to exercise full military control over areas set aside as army, army air, and naval bases.

Respectfully,

*James Forrestal*  
James Forrestal

*x Japan*

*approved 8/14/45*

HARRY S. TRUMAN

Original Retired  
for Preservation