

Memorandum of Understanding Between the Navy Department and the
Department of the Interior Regarding the Transfer of Administrative
Responsibility for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands

1. The President should designate the future civilian High Commissioner of the Trust Territory. Interior's selection for civilian High Commissioner should be nominated by the Secretary of the Navy through the Secretary of Defense.
2. The civilian High Commissioner should assume office on or about July 1, 1950, and should be responsible to the Secretary of the Navy from the date he assumes office until the transfer date.
3. Responsibility for the Government of the Trust Territory should be transferred from Navy to Interior on July 1, 1951, and from that date forward the High Commissioner should be responsible to the Secretary of the Interior.
4. The civilian High Commissioner, with Interior's assistance, should immediately after his designation commence recruiting civilians to replace naval personnel. The Navy Department will process the appointments and arrange for the transportation of civilian replacements until the transfer date.
5. The Navy Department will, after consultation with the Department of the Interior, include in its 1951 budget estimates the amounts required to cover costs incidental to the transfer, including the salaries and transportation of civilian replacements.
6. Naval military personnel on duty with the Government of the Trust Territory on July 1, 1951, will, except as otherwise agreed upon in individual cases, be detached from that duty on the transfer date, or earlier if requested by the High Commissioner, provided that the foregoing shall not affect normal rotation of duty in individual cases. If any services are required to be performed by naval units to the Government of the Trust Territory after July 1, 1951, such services will be the subject of separate agreements.
7. Naval civilian personnel whom the High Commissioner does not wish to retain will, by July 1, 1951, be reassigned to other duty or dismissed, as the Navy determines.



8. Specific arrangements with respect to the transfer of property now owned by the United States and used by the Government of the Trust Territory will be the subject of separate agreements. These arrangements will be consistent with policies relating to property transfer set forth in the draft organic acts for Guam and American Samoa recommended by the Interior and Navy Departments to the 81st Congress.
9. The two Departments will cooperate closely with each other at each stage of the transfer process, making available to one another information, facilities, and personal and other services to the fullest extent practicable in order to ensure an orderly transfer.
10. The transfer date referred to in paragraph 3 above has been selected on the assumption that regular air and sea transportation services, other than naval, will be available after the transfer date to meet essential civilian and governmental requirements in the Trust Territory. The Navy and Interior Departments will commence immediately to work out, in cooperation with other interested agencies, arrangements for such services and will submit plans by May 1, 1950, for carrying out these arrangements to the President for approval.

August 31, 1949

