



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

4 1953

Dear Mr. Dodge:

The inclosed draft of a proposed Executive Order "Amending Executive Order 10408, transferring the administration of the portion of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands which includes the Islands of Tinian and Saipan from the Secretary of the Interior to the Secretary of the Navy," is forwarded with the request that it be submitted to the President for his approval and signature.

Executive Order 10408 transferred the administration of that portion of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands which includes the islands of Tinian and Saipan from the Secretary of the Interior to the Secretary of the Navy, effective January 1, 1953. The purpose of the inclosed draft Executive Order is to include the remaining islands of the Northern Marianas in that transfer of administration.

Approximately 83% of the permanent native population of the Northern Mariana Islands resides on the two islands of Tinian and Saipan. In addition, Saipan is the administrative center of the entire district. All political, economic, medical, educational and cultural activities operate around Saipan as the focal point.

With the transferring of administration of Saipan and Tinian to the Secretary of the Navy, the remaining islands of the Northern Marianas have become a difficult problem of effective and economical administration. The High Commissioner of the Trust Territory has recognized the problem and has recommended the transfer of administration set forth in the accompanying proposed Executive Order.

The Departments of State and the Interior by letters dated January 5, 1953, and December 30, 1952, respectively, to the Secretary of the Navy concurred in this proposal. Copies of those letters are inclosed.

Sincerely yours,

Roger Kent

ROGER KENT
General Counsel

RECEIVED

MAR 3 1953
BUREAU OF THE BUDGET

Inclosures

Honorable Joseph M. Dodge
Director
Bureau of the Budget

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

In reply refer to
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JANUARY 5, 1953

My dear Mr. Secretary:

The Department has given consideration to the proposal outlined in your letter of December 18, 1952 to amend the language of Executive Order 10408 to provide that the area in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands to be transferred from the Department of the Interior to the Department of the Navy shall include the entire Northern Marianas District of the Trust Territory rather than only the islands of Saipan and Tinian as is presently provided by the Executive Order. The Department notes that this proposal is recommended by the High Commissioner of the Trust Territory and the Commander in Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet.

In view of the decision recorded in Executive Order 10408 to transfer the administration of Saipan and Tinian to the Department of the Navy and the problems, as outlined in your letter, which would result if the remaining islands of the Northern Marianas District are separately administered, the Department concurs in the proposal outlined in your letter.



I am sending copies of this letter to the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Defense.

Sincerely yours,

For the Secretary of State:

/s/ John D. Hickerson
John D. Hickerson
Assistant Secretary

The Honorable
Dan A. Kimball
Secretary of the Navy

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Office of the Secretary
Washington 25, D. C.

DEC 30, 1952

My dear Mr. Secretary:

In your letter of December 18, 1952, you request my concurrence in a proposal to amend Executive Order 10408 to effect the transfer from this Department of the Navy Department of all the islands in the Northern Marianas District, including the islands of Saipan and Tinian, which will be so transferred on January 1 pursuant to the above-mentioned Order.

While this Department opposed the issuance of Executive Order 10408, I concur under the circumstances in your proposal to amend this Order.

A copy of this letter is being sent to the Secretaries of State and Defense.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Oscar Chapman
Secretary of the Interior



Hon. Dan A. Kimball
Secretary of the Navy
Washington 25, D. C.