

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
BUREAU OF THE BUDGET
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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JUN 10 1953
~~SECURITY INFORMATION~~

My dear Mr. Attorney General:

Under covering letter of March 4, 1953, the General Counsel of the Office of the Secretary of Defense transmitted to the Bureau of the Budget a draft of an Executive Order entitled "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". Attached hereto is this letter, together with copies of letters from the former Secretary of the Interior dated December 30, 1952 and from the Assistant Secretary of State dated January 5, 1953, both relative to this matter.

The draft order was revised in this office to include a second paragraph for the purpose of minimizing the possibility of propaganda allegations that military government was being substituted for civil government in these islands and affirming the responsibility of the Secretary of State for the interpretation of applicable international agreements and obligations.

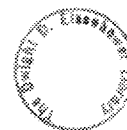
On March 25, 1953, the revised draft was sent to the Secretaries of Defense, State, and Interior and the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency for their comment. The replies of April 17, 1953 from the General Counsel of the Office of the Secretary of Defense, of April 9, 1953, from the Assistant Secretary of State, and of April 22, 1953, from the Director of Central Intelligence, all indicating concurrence with the revised draft, are also attached.

Subsequent to the dispatch of these letters a conference was held in Hawaii at which the three interested departments were represented. The attached letter of June 5, 1953, from the Assistant Secretary of Interior reflects the result of this conference. You will note that Interior concurs with the revised draft order, but indicates that agreement was reached at the conference to retain the island of Rota (the southernmost island of the Northern Mariannas) under Interior administration. Informal inquiry of the Departments of Defense and

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DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.2
OMB Letter 5/1/79
by DJP, WASS, Date 2/15/94



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State has confirmed this agreement and the first paragraph of the draft of order transmitted herewith has accordingly been revised to reflect this agreement.

The revised draft of order has the approval of the Director of the Bureau of the Budget.

If appropriate, it would be appreciated if, at the time the draft of order is forwarded to the White House, you would forward for my information a copy of your covering letter of transmittal.

Sincerely yours,

Roger W. Jones

Assistant Director for
Legislative Reference



The Honorable

The Attorney General

Enclosures

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

MAR 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

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MAR 5 10 42 AM '53
BUREAU OF THE BUDGET

Inclosures

Honorable Joseph M. Dodge
Director
Bureau of the Budget

