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UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

MAY 15 1962

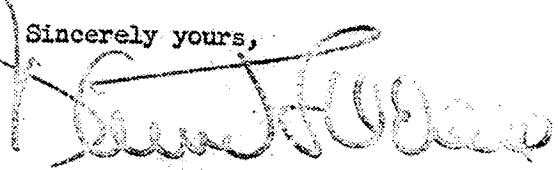
Dear Mr. Focke:

We have your letter of April 18 requesting the views of this Department with regard to the revocation of Executive Order No. 8683, as amended by Executive Order No. 8729, which established the Guam Island Naval Defensive Sea Area and the Guam Island Naval Air Space Reservation. Enclosed for your information is a copy of a letter dated January 3, 1962, which summarizes the position of this Department.

The Department of Interior, as a civilian agency, is not in a position to comment on defense considerations with respect to the military security program in Guam, and in a report to the White House of April 25, 1962, on the same matter I so stated. We have, of course, long felt that the continued application of security requirements makes difficult the administration of the civilian government of Guam as provided by the Organic Act.

Representatives of the Department have also discussed security matters in the Pacific Islands, Guam and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, with staff members of both the National Security Council and the Defense Department. We are in sympathy with the lifting of such restrictions of this security program as may be no longer necessary or which will not affect the defense posture of the United States.

Sincerely yours,

  
Secretary of the Interior

Mr. Arthur B. Focke  
General Counsel  
Bureau of the Budget  
Washington 25, D. C.

Enclosure