

August 23, 1962

Office of the White House Press Secretary

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THE WHITE HOUSE

On Tuesday, August 21, 1962 the President signed an order rescinding Executive Order 8683 of February 14, 1941, under which the Navy exercised entry control into the Guam Island Naval Defensive Sea and Airspace Reservation. Entry into the territory previously required prior Navy security clearance, although in effect United States citizens have been free to enter the territory since September 1961.

The President's action, which removes this requirement, was recommended by the Secretaries of State, Defense and Interior. The rescission of the 1941 order now places Guam, insofar as entry of persons is concerned, in the same status as the United States, controlled under the Immigration and Naturalization Act of 1952. The Department of Defense will continue to exercise control over entry into military and naval installations in Guam, including Apra Harbor.

Removal of entry controls is expected to encourage the development of the civilian economy of Guam. It will, for example, remove a major hindrance to the growth of tourism and will provide the territorial government with the opportunity to attract long-term investments, a necessary element in the economic development of the island. This, together with Administration support for legislation to provide for an elected governor and a non-voting deputy in Congress for Guam, is in furtherance of our national policies of increasing self-government and encouraging the social and economic development of the area of the Pacific for which we are responsible.

Guam was acquired by the United States in 1898 as a consequence of the Spanish-American War. Navy administration, except for a period when it was occupied by Japan during World War II, continued until August 1950 when jurisdiction was transferred to the Secretary of the Interior. The Congress enacted organic legislation in 1950 which granted United States citizenship to the people of Guam and established a civilian government with a Governor appointed by the President and an elective legislature.

Simultaneously with the rescission of Executive Order 8683, the President directed opening the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands to United States citizens, investment and shipping without prior Navy security clearance.

Since 1947 the Trust Territory, which came under United States control during World War II, has been administered by the United States as a strategic trusteeship under agreement with the Security Council of the United Nations. Under the President's policy directive entry by United States persons and American Flag vessels into the area will be the responsibility of the High Commissioner under the guidance of the Secretary of the Interior and in accordance with regulations developed by the Secretaries of State, Defense and Interior.

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The Trust Territory contains certain defense installations. Entry into such areas by all persons and vessels will continue to be subject to Navy clearance. Concurrently with the decision to remove the Navy entry controls for United States citizens and American flag vessels, the administration has undertaken a vigorous and far-reaching program of political, social and economic development. Education will receive first priority. The goal is to provide standards comparable to those in the United States. The construction of over 200 new school rooms is planned as well as the employment of enough teachers to carry out the program.

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In furtherance of our national policy of promoting self-government and encouraging expanded social and economic development in the Territories under United States administration, I have signed an Executive Order rescinding a 1941 Executive Order (8683) which established the Guam Naval and Airspace Reservations. As a result of this action, Navy security clearances no longer will be required as a condition of entering the Territory of Guam thus providing the same freedom of movement that exists in other parts of the United States.

Further, I have directed that regulations relating to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands be revised to facilitate free entry of United States citizens, United States investment and United States flag vessels into that area. Revised procedures will be developed by the Secretaries of State, Defense and Interior.

Entry into Eniwetok, Bikini and Kwajalein Atolls, together with such other islands as may be designated for national defense purposes from time to time, will continue to be under control of the Department of Defense. All appropriate measures will be taken to insure that the security interests of the United States in the Pacific are amply safeguarded.

I intend that these actions I have taken will foster responsible political development, stimulate new economic activity, and enable the people of the Islands to participate fully in the world of today.

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