UNITED STATES

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

★ news release

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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TAITANO RETURNING TO PACIFIC TO BE DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER OF TRUST TERRITORY

Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall today announced that Richard F. Taitano of Guam, who has served as Director of the Office of Territories since 1961, will become Deputy High Commissioner of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, effective April 10, 1964.

The Trust Territory is a United Nations protectorate assigned to the United States for administration and security. It includes several island groups spread over a 3 million square mile area of the Western Pacific. The island groups include the Marianas, except the island of Guam where Mr. Taitano was born and reared, the Marshalls and the Carolines. Administered by the United States under a United Nations trusteeship agreement, the territory has a population of approximately 82,000.

Secretary Udall said Mr. Taitano preferred another employment opportunity in Guam. But on March 13 Secretary Udall wrote to him stating that the Department could not afford to lose the benefit of his academic training, extensive administrative experience and enthusiasm for the Administration's program for accelerated development of the Trust Territory.

Born May 14, 1921, Taitano is a graduate of Berea College and had post-graduate courses in government at the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania. His previous Government service includes periods with the Navy Department and responsible positions in the territorial government of Guam. From 1952 to 1961 he was director of finance for the Government of Guam.

Secretary Udall stated: "I am delighted that Mr. Taitano has found it possible to accept my urgent request that he remain in Federal Service. We are indeed fortunate to be able to retain his life-long knowledge of and experience in territorial affairs."

The White House announced March 20 that Taitano will be succeeded in the Office of Territories by Mrs. Ruth G. Van Cleve, a career attorney in the Department, who has specialized in territorial legal matters during most of her government service.

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