

RELEASE: 147-66

CLAIMS REVIEW TEAM TO TOUR TERRITORY

Saipan, Mariana Islands, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Sept. 7 . . . A three-man Claims Review Team will start a tour of the Territory on September 19, 1966, to review and identify any legitimate claims against the United States for use or loss of property after the date of secure of the Territory. The review team will be made up of Mr. Robert Shoecraft, Attorney General of the Trust Territory and currently Acting Deputy High Commissioner, Mr. Chester Leedom, Special Assistant to the Director, Office of Territories, and Mr. James Johnson of the Department of Interior, Land Management Division. Mr. Johnson formerly served as Land Title Officer in the Marianas District during the Navy Administration period.

The review team plans to visit all districts of the Territory to meet with representative leaders as well as individuals who wish to make representations to the Team.

The sole objective of the Claims Review Team is to identify post-secure and post-treaty claims against the United States. The Review Team will not deal with any war claims properly to be charged to Japanese war activity.

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These so-called "war claims" were the subject of an investigation carried out in June-July 1962 by Mr. George Milner, Office of Territories and Mr. Robert Coote of the Secretary of Interior's Office. Negotiations with the Japanese Government on the so-called "war claims" currently is underway. The present Claims Review Team will attempt to investigate all legitimate claims which can be substantiated for use or loss of property by the U. S. Armed Forces after the area had been secured.

Proposed itinerary of the Claims Review Team will be:

September 26 Arrive Guam  
September 26 Leave Guam, Arrive Saipan  
September 29 Leave Saipan, Arrive Yap  
October 2 Leave Yap, Arrive Koror  
October 7 Leave Koror, Arrive Guam  
October 11 Leave Guam, Arrive Truk  
October 18 Leave Truk, Arrive Ponape  
October 25 Leave Ponape, Arrive Kwajalein  
October 26, 27, 28 at Kwajalein (Ebeye) Arrange Away flight  
to Majuro  
October 29 Leave Kwajalein, Arrive Majuro earliest possible time  
November 2 Leave Majuro, Arrive Guam  
November 3 Leave Guam, Arrive Saipan

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