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### Congressman Mike Mansfield - Far East Trip

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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FAR EAST TRIP. - Dec 1945

Mr. Speaker:

On December 21st, 1945, I completed an investigation trip, as a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, with a sub-committee of the House Naval Affairs Committee which covered the Far East and the ex-Japanese Mandates in the Pacific. I left Washington on November 21st and, during the month of our investigations we stopped at Pearl Harbor, Midway, Wake, Guam, Tokyo and Yokosuke in Japan; Tsingtao, Tientsin, Peiking and Shanghai in China; Yonabaru in the Ryukyus, Manila, Pelelui, Anguar, Koror and Babelthuap in the Palaus; Moen, Komulun, Dublon, Uman and Ubet in the Truk Group and Kwajalein in the Marshalls.

Every courtesy was extended to us by members of the Army and Navy in these areas and also by officials of the State Department with whom we came in contact in Tokyo, Tsingtao, Peiking and Shanghai. To all of them personally and as a group, I wish to extend my sincere thanks for their cooperation and helpfulness.

My purpose in making this report is to give to the Congress the results of my views on American policy in the areas covered. As many of you know, I undertook a seven weeks survey of Burma and China for the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt in November and December, 1945 and I would like to suggest that you check my remarks in this speech, as they affect China, with the report I made to Congress on January 16, 1946 and which can be found in full in the Congressional Record of that date.

On my trip I covered approximately 25,000 miles over a 31 day period. During that time I kept a personal day-to-day diary, interviewed as many people as I could, both in official circles and on the street and also made use of every bit of information which I thought would be of value in assessing my views and making them known to the Congress.

There were a number of questions in my mind which I tried to find answers to during the course of my trip and, which I could reach no definite conclusions to some of them, I will set them down. They are as follows: Where are America's

frontiers in the Pacific and the Far East? What are our interests in these areas? What position are we in to protect them? From whom must they be protected? What is our present policy toward these areas? Are our present holdings there assets or liabilities? What is the future of Japan's ex-mandates in the Pacific?

I left Washington on November 21st and arrived at Pearl Harbor on November 23rd. Leaving Pearl Harbor on the 25th of November at midnight I arrived at Wake Island on the morning of the 26th. Wake, an island one mile by one and one-half miles in area, housed 12,000 men during the war but its present complement is down to around 300. This includes the personnel of one Marine air squadron of 26 planes. In my opinion, Midway is the most important strategic island in the North Pacific. It is only 1600 miles from Adak in the Aleutians, 2400 miles from Tokyo and 1500 miles from Pearl Harbor. A constant battle with the sea must be waged to keep the island together. Storms raise havoc with our air field there, because the constant action of the waves is washing its underpinnings away. No matter what the expense may be this island should be kept up because of its strategic position and importance. Probably the most decisive naval battle of the Pacific War--the Battle of Midway--was fought off this island. At the present time Midway has fine airstrips, a good submarine base and harbor, and a roadstead big enough for cruisers and carriers if they draw no more than 28 feet.

Midway belongs to the Leeward Island group of the Hawaiian Archipelago. This group stretches away in a long line for 1300 miles northwest of the inhabited Hawaiian Islands. All of them are very small and some are merely reefs. The ocean in their vicinity is notorious for uncertain and dangerous currents and for abrupt changes in the depth of the water. They were set aside as a bird reservation in 1909 and are now tenanted by thousands of sea-birds of various kinds. Some fishing operations are now being carried on in this group but they are seldom visited and, with the exception of Midway, have no inhabitants. Incidentally, Midway was discovered and claimed for the United States in 1859 when



Hawaii was still an independent country.

From Midway I went to Wake and, from the air, the landing strip looked very, very small. Wake is an atoll occupied an area  $4\frac{1}{2}$  by 2 miles. Its three islets, separated by shallow water, have a maximum altitude of about 20 feet. I left Wake on Thursday, November 28, (Thanksgiving Day) and on our way to Guam we flew low and circled Saipan, Tinian, Roto, and Pagan Islands in the Marianas. These were a part of the former Japanese mandates. Saipan looked beautiful from the air and it, along with Tinian was dotted with air strips and concentrations of material.

Guam is the southernmost, largest and most populous of the 15 islands comprising the Marianna group. It is about 30 miles long, varies in width from 4 to 8 miles and has a total area of 225 square miles. The island is the top of a great volcanic cone built up from the Pacific Ocean and its highest elevation is 1334 feet. Apro, on the west coast, has an excellent harbor, is well protected and has a large enough anchorage at all seasons for almost all classes of ships.

Guam is an extremely important link in the east-west chain of islands belonging to the United States. On the present airplane route to the Orient the distance from Guam to Wake is 1310 miles; to Manila, 1384 miles; to Truk, 555 miles; to Peleliu, 690 miles and to Kwajalein, 1550 miles.

The work of the naval government in Guam since the Washington Conference of 1921-22 has resolved itself largely into carrying out a constructive program for the benefit of the Guamanians. During the 250 years Spain had administered Guam its population had decreased tremendously. Under the navy, it had become one of the cleanest and most wholesome islands in the tropics. The population has more than doubled since 1898, proper sanitary and medical care has been provided and a free public educational system has been instituted.

The loyalty and gratitude of the Guamanians to the U. S. is unquestioned. On a number of occasions, they have petitioned for American citizenship, the latest in December, 1946, when the Guamanian Congress passed such a resolution, but

nothing as yet has been done. They do not want independence as they realize they lack experience and financial resources to continue their government without the support which comes to them directly and indirectly from federal appropriations and from service personnel on the island.

There is still a small number of Japanese soldiers at large on the island. They live in the jungle and subsist on what nature provides or they can steal. However, the number is gradually being whittled down and it will not be long before they will all be accounted for. The war trials of a number of captured and accused Japanese are being conducted there and sentences are being meted out.

I visited the hospital there and the School of Tropical Medicine which has been extremely good equipment but very little in the way of personnel to carry on the work necessary in Guam and the other Pacific islands now under our control. I believe that it would be a good and necessary policy for us to appropriate sufficient funds to operate this school on a first-class basis, to provide sufficient personnel to man it and to use it as a training school for native medical practitioners so that they could take care of the health needs in our islands. This has been done very successfully by the British who have established such a training center in Suva in the Fiji Island group and the results have been extremely gratifying. This type of education is necessary due to the fact that American doctors will not go to the islands because of inadequate salaries and because very few of them would be willing to make a career a life such as this would call for.

Guam, at the present time, is our real western line of defense. At present there are 12,000 Navy and Marine personnel and 18,000 Army personnel on the island. While this large number crowds the island now we had as many as 210,000 service personnel on Guam during the war.



The present Commander of the Mariannas, Rear-Admiral Pounall, is a tolerant and understanding administrator. He impressed me as a man who has the interests of both the natives and his country at heart. More administrators like him would be beneficial to the U. S. in our dealings with the peoples now under our control in the Pacific.

From Guam I went to Tokyo. We had hoped to go to Marcus Island but did not when we found out that it had, in effect, been "rolled up" and that it had only the one air-strip and that a sea-air rescue unit was stationed there.

Tokyo is in a very dilapidated state but the Japanese are cooperating very well with the Americans and conditions are, on the whole, good. The economy of Japan is coming back gradually and most of the people seem to like the Americans. During a three hour luncheon with General Douglas McArthur many pertinent questions were discussed. He stated that the Occupation of Japan was going along very well and that, to keep the situation under control, he had about 80,000 American troops plus some New Zealanders, Australian and Sikh troops to assist him. He stated that the Japanese people liked us. When asked about the U.S.S.R., he said that she was trying to make her influence felt in Japan and that, while she had no troops there, she did have a mission numbering in excess of 500 which was entirely too many for the amount of work they had to do.

McArthur pointed out that the Communist Party had little influence in Japan, that it was small but vocal and well organized, that it had only six members in the Diet. Women have 38 of their sex as Representatives in the Diet.

He pointed out that Japan will come back economically much sooner than the Philippines because of the way the Japanese will work. Tokyo and other ruined

cities in Japan will not be too long getting rebuilt whereas Manila will take much longer.

McArthur stated that the Japanese are now the world's greatest pacifists. They have gone from one extreme to the other because they were at their peak when they went to war and they lost. Hence, their system failed them and they have now become pacifists.

In contrast to Germany, McArthur said that the occupation of Japan has cost the United States nothing except for the payment of wages to our service personnel and their clothes, medical attention and food.

When questioned, McArthur stated our stay in Japan is indeterminate. Much will depend on the action of Congress and the reparations issue. He expressed general agreement with Ed Pauley's report on reparations but was opposed to some of it because it was not based on the fact that Japan had been stripped by bombing of much of her industry. In his opinion Japan must be made self-sustaining or it will cost the U. S. billions of dollars and millions of lives in the future. He favored the ex-Japanese Mandated Islands being made military reservations with all the rights of American citizens granted to the natives except the franchise. This, in effect, would be a continuation of the Guam type of government.

He is introducing land reforms to make it possible for the peasants to buy and own their own farms. He has taken away pensions and honors from all retired Japanese Army and Navy officers and he is determined to break the Japanese military caste. About 400 Japanese have already been tried and executed and about 1000 still remain to be tried. It is his contention that if he had not jailed the war criminals, the Japanese people would have killed them.



Relations between American service personnel and the Japanese people seem to be good. I am wondering, though, if our boys are not too young for the "police" type of duty which is their main job. While the Japanese women and youngsters seemed friendly, there was a certain surliness on the part of some of the men. The Japanese people look with distaste upon their returned soldiers. Japanese policemen, minus swords, seem to have a difficult time handling Korean and Formosans who cause much trouble. It has become necessary for the Japanese police to call on American M. P.'s for assistance in some quarters of Tokyo because the Koreans and Formosans are so difficult to handle.

From Tokyo I went to Yokosuke, the great Japanese Naval Base 40 miles south of the capitol. This base was a remarkable one with its floating and stationary cranes, its six large drydocks--one of which can accommodate the biggest ship afloat--its caves dug into the mountains at the base which, as far as can be ascertained, run for more than 20 miles and were honeycombed with machine shops, radar equipment, chartrooms, munitions, etc. These caves are cut into the soapstone and they represent a well thought out job. One wonders at the Japanese mentality because we were informed on reliable authority that with the war they inducted their machine tool operators into the army and replaced them with farmers who had to be forced to work by guards armed with machine guns.

Yokosuke Navy Yard used to be surrounded by a high fence and no foreigners were ever allowed inside. 70,000 Japanese were employed at this base. No American ship had visited Yokosuke--except for a brief stop of an American fleet on a round the world tour in 1908--until after VJ Day. It was as much of a secret base as it was humanly possible to achieve. Even today the old Navy Yard workers and their townspeople are not too friendly but under administration of Captain Benton Decker, U. S. N., much progress is being made and a major base for



the repair of American ships in the Far Pacific will soon be in the making.

I believe that Japan must be allowed to maintain a self-sustaining economy, otherwise it will be necessary for us to export foodstuffs to her and, maybe, create a kind of dependency which would create disastrous consequences for us.

On VJ Day the Japanese did not have a battleship afloat although the Nagoya--riddled in the Battle of Leyte--was being repaired. On that date the Japanese had 3000 planes left but they did not have the gas necessary to get off the ground. From 1940 to 1945, Japan built 60,000 planes of all types which compares with our yearly production during the war years.

In Japan's schools we are changing the contents of their textbooks to coincide with our views but we are doing nothing to further the health of the school children. The schools are cold and have no heat, the students still wear uniforms and girls are still not allowed to go to the universities.

At Hiroshima I saw the results of the first atom bomb--16 months after. The shells or outside of some 10 or 12 modern buildings were left standing and some wooden houses were going up in the devastated area. There was no sign of a garden in the 4 square mile bombed area. The destruction here was terrible and the sight of what man's terrible destructive genius can accomplish is enough to make one shudder.

From Hiroshima I went to Tsingtao in Shantung Province, north of China. We do not have a naval base here, or anywhere else in China. The Russians have a base at Port Arthur based on the Sino-Soviet Treaty of 1945. Tsingtao is the logical place for the Chinese navy to build itself and we have furnished them with ships and, at present, are supplying them with American naval instructions.

Our policy in China, according to Admiral Cooke, Commander of the U. S. Seventh Naval Fleet, has been to assist the movement of Central Government armies to northwest China; to repatriate Japanese to their homeland; to help move

supplies into famine districts; and to help repair damaged Chinese ports.

Our Marine Corps activities have been reduced so that Marines guards have been taken off the coal trains from Tientsin to Chingwantao. Marine personnel is being constantly cut down in numbers and their only duty now is to support Executive Headquarters in Peiping. Executive Headquarters is composed of members of the Kuomintang, the Communists, and the U. S. Army and its main purpose seems to be to send out truce teams to help bring about a cessation of hostilities between the Kuomintang and the Communists. As a matter of fact the U. S. Army is the real Executive Headquarters and the Marines supply the logistics support. The Marines had been used to protect the coal mines and the railroads but these functions have now been taken over by the Nationalist troops.

During my China visit the Chinese National Assembly was in session at Nanking but the Communists have refused to join it stating they were not being given enough voice in the government.

In early December, 1946, there were approximately 40,000 Naval and Marine personnel in China, Japan and Okinawa. The U. S. Army, in China, had approximately 4000 men there with one-half stationed at Peiping and one-half at Nanking.

The Chinese are building a naval base at Tsingtao and the personnel there seem to be a good, well disciplined group. The Chinese have difficulty in understanding the sciences and seem rather difficult to teach electronics and radar.

While in Tsingtao I saw some "volunteers" for the Central Government's Army. They were tied together with ropes and being driven to their barracks. This is really nothing new as China's armies have been getting this type of recruit for many years past.

After leaving Tsingtao I went to Tientsin and Peiping. In the latter city I talked with General Gillam, the American Commissioner at Executive Headquarters.



He stated that while the situation between the Communists and the Kuomintang was tense that the door was not entirely closed to further negotiations. At that time there were very few truce teams out in the field and negotiations between the two opposing factions had developed into a stalemate.

For the Kuomintang, the C. C. Clique dominated by the Chen brothers, is still a very potent factor. This group is opposed to a compromise with the opposition. The Chinese people seem to be afraid of the Kuomintang which has the secret agents everywhere. The Chinese are beginning to indicate their dislike of foreigners of all kinds and they are showing evidences of an anti-American spirit based, I believe, on the presence of our service personnel in their country.

In the Chinese cities I visited I noticed the beginnings of youth movements among boys and girls. They wear uniforms, march in step and have distinctive slogans. These movements can be channeled into democratic lines like our Boy Scouts or they can become vehicles for dictatorship as the youth movements in Italy and Germany were. Only time will tell what their ultimate effect will be.

From information I gathered in north China the Russians did a very thorough job of looting Manchuria and pillaging that area and its people. Now, in retaliation, the Chinese are doing the same things to the Russians in the parts of Manchuria they control.

In her dealings with the Central Government the Russians are scrupulously correct. No Russian materl, as such, is going to the Communists but the Russians did leave captured Japanese war supplies--as they withdrew--where it would be convenient for the Chinese Communists to take it over. The Kuomintang armies are well equipped and supplies by us; the Communist armies steal or take whatever they

can. The Communists are very anti-American and they have put out very defamatory posters in Yenan and perhaps elsewhere, showing American marines in a very ~~favorable~~ unfavorable light.

From Peiping I went to Shanghai and from there to Yonabaru on Okinawa. Okinawa is an island in the Ryukyus 67 miles long by 10 miles wide. Well over 100 ships of all types are beached or on their sides, mute evidence to the effectiveness of the great typhoon of last year.

At present, Okinawa is manned by 12,000 American soldiers but only a few in excess of 1000 sailors. From a naval point of view this base is in the "caretaker" status and opinion is very divided as to what its future disposition should be. Due to its vulnerability to severe types of weather plus the availability of a big, modern base at Yokosuke it would appear that except for its use as an "eye" on our defense perimeter it would not be a worthwhile, permanent installation.

On December 10, I arrived at Peleliu in the Palaus and immediately went by seaplane to the island of Anguar to look into the dispositions of the phosphate deposits there. We have a million tons of this valuable commodity in Anguar and a contract has been let to an American concern--the Pomeroy Company--to dig it out. It is being sent to Japan, in Japanese ships, to help rehabilitate the rail there and thus to make the country become more self-supporting. The natives are being paid 55¢ a day, and Japanese sent from Japan, \$3.50 a day. The American workers are paid at prevailing stateside wages. The phosphate is to be mined at the rate of 300,000 tons a year.

The phosphate at Anguar is extremely rich and valuable for medicinal purposes as well as for use as fertilizer. This phosphate could be used in Hawaii, where it is needed badly, or by nations like the Philippines and China allied with us in the war. There are approximately 200 American civil employees here and the contract is on a cost-plus-fixed-fee basis which could bear looking into. Further



more, according to the Great Falls, Montana Tribune of December 19th, 500,000 tons of Montana and Idaho phosphate have also been scheduled to go to Japan and Korea immediately.

From Anguar I went to Koror which used to be the seat of the Japanese South Seas Government and which directly ruled all the Mandated Islands. There was much permanent building done here and all indications point to the Japanese being here to stay. In the back of the Governor's Mansion there was a grass inlaid map of the Palaus which was remarkable for its intricate detail. The Japanese had 35,000 troops on Koror but we never did attempt to take the island. There was the remains of an old Japanese shrine--now occupied by a church--in back of which gun emplacements can still be seen.

From Koror I went by boat to Babelthuap the largest island in the group and visited some native villages and schools. In the Palaus the children are being taught English which they have to learn from Japanese characters. They seem to be learning our language fairly rapidly.

On Babelthuap I visited a men's clubhouse--to which women are never admitted, and noticed the painting and engraving of various kinds of roosters, fanciful animals of different kinds, and men in assorted kinds of positions. This island is little known and has hardly been visited by white men.

When I saw the mangrove swamps I shuddered to think what American boys had to go through in taking Peleliu and other islands in the Pacific. When I visited our cemeteries on Peleliu and Anguar, when I looked over Bloody Nose Ridge and when I viewed Orange and Purple beaches, I didn't feel too well.

We have a lot of surplus equipment in the Palaus which we might as well forget because it is either useless or will be soon. Many of our Pacific island holdings are now Quonset hut affairs. The U. S. Commercial Company, a

subsidiary of the R.F.C., has a monopoly on trading with the natives in our newly acquired possessions. This organization encourages native handicrafts and buys what the natives produce and then send it to the U. S. for sale. Much that the natives produce is crude but, with a market, their handicraft can be improved and their subsistence, in part at least, can be taken care of.

The Japanese built up strong defenses, not as complete as those at Truk, but more powerful than those normally built at an outlying base. The Paluan fortifications suffered the first attack when the 81st Army Infantry Division stormed the shores of Anguar about a week previous to the assault on Peleliu by the 1st Marine Division (Reinforced) on 15 September 1944. The Army supported the Peleliu invasion with artillery fire from Anguar during the early stages of the attack, and two weeks later the Army joined the Marines on Peleliu to aid in the fight. November, 1944, Peleliu was secured.

No attempt was made to invade the major islands north of Peleliu, but, with the two bases, Peleliu and Anguar, being operated mainly as air bases, our planes were able to keep the other islands in the Palaus constantly harrassed and subdued. These islands capitulated after V-J Day.

The Palau islands lie in a chain 20 miles wide running roughly north-north-east to south-southwest for 77 miles. Most northerly is Babelthuat, which is also the biggest, while at the south is Anguar, rich in phosphate deposits. The islands are very irregular in shape and, in general, hilly with the exception of those at the northern and southern extremes. Through the center of the group there is a distinct geological division between islands on the north which are volcanic basalt and islands to the south which are limestone. There is an overlapping of geological types near the center. Western Koror, Malakal, Arakabesan, and isolated portions of Aurapushekaru are volcanic in composition,



while the south appendages of Babelthuap, eastern Koror, Ngargol, and almost all of Aurapushekaru are limestone.

The topographical differences between the volcanic and limestone portions of Palau has considerable effect on the importance and usefulness of the islands. While basaltic Babelthuap is hilly and has the highest peaks of the chain, 790 feet, at its northwest tip, it and the other volcanic islands in central Palau are steep, hogbacked, narrow, and generally cliff-bordered. Although their characteristics discourage settlement, they form excellent windbreaks and breakwaters for the harbors and anchorages of Palau, such as Shonian Harbor. The two southernmost of the limestone formations, Peleliu, and Anguar, are generally level and useful for settlements.

Babelthuap is volcanic with bauxite, manganese, and lignite (coal) deposits. About 23 miles long and four to eight miles wide, its northern section where the bauxite mines are worked is rather bare; its southern section is hilly, crossed by many ridges, and not too heavily wooded. Its coast is lined with mangrove swamps with a few sandy beaches at off intervals. Six small rivers which are navigable for a distance of a mile or more from their mouths by shallow-draft boats are channeled across the island. Babelthuap also boasts a small spring-fed lake.

Koror's coast is devoid of beaches and to the west is mangrove, to the east limestone cliffs. It is about three miles long and covers an area of less than three square miles. Ferry service unites it with Babelthuap. Koror was the center for Japanese military, naval, and political activity and a sizeable modern town was built on its western side. Now Koror is the center of Military Government for the Palaus and a large hospital functions there.

Peleliu is approximately 5 miles long with a maximum width of a little over two miles. Mangrove swamps, sandy beaches, and coral ledges alternately

northeast-southwest ridge north of the airfield. The ridge has abrupt cliffs and is pitted with about five hundred caves which vary in size from mere holes in the rock to large caves partially excavated by the Japanese for use as storage or for hospitals. Caves are known to extend under the north end of the airstrip and cause portions of the roadway to sink. The Japanese built a good airfield and air arsenal on Peleliu. Just off the western reef, near what is called Orange Beach, is an anchorage suitable for large vessels.

Palau has great military and commercial importance and has been for years the center of Japanese political control of all her Pacific mandated Islands. In this island group, as you have read, the Japanese operated a major military base, a fleet anchorage and supply base, an airfield, and seaplane bases (near Koror).

Palau's location gives it considerable strategic importance. One thousand miles west of Truk and only 530 miles from Davao in the southern Philippines, it commands the sea and air routes from China and Japan to New Guinea and the western Dutch East Indies. For this reason it was an important trans-shipment point for movements of enemy ships, troops, planes, and supplies to the southwest Pacific theater of operations.

From the Palaus I went to the Truk group in the Eastern Carolines. Our Military Government headquarters are located on Moon Island. This island-- and all the others in this group--is beautiful. Moon has such things as waterfalls, dense vegetation and a heavy precipitation. I also visited the islands of Romulum, Udot, Dublon and Uman.

The people here are light brown in appearance, very docile, and easy to handle. We were entertained on all the islands by singing and dancing. There are about 10,000 inhabitants in the Truk group compared to 5900 in the Palaus. Both the Trukese and the Palauans impressed me as a happy but bewildered people.



The diseases of greatest prevalence in both groups are tuberculosis and intestinal parasites. Due to the use of penicillin, yaws--which used to be quite prevalent--have been cleared up; there is no indication of syphilis and very little gonorrhea. Sanitary habits are being introduced by the Navy and outdoor toilets are much in use.

Neither the Palauans or the Trukese care to work too much as they have all the necessities of life--except tobacco--and in this respect they are rationed at the rate of 4 cartons a month. The standard rate of pay in both groups is 40¢ a day.

Truk was not the Japanese "Pearl Harbor" the American public had been led to believe in. The Japanese had a battery of eight 8-inch guns on Moen and a system of caves on all the islands similar to those in use in Japan. Dublin island was their headquarters and from there the movements of their 4th Fleet and 31st Army Division were directed. Fortifications were of a very weak character and kind. There was no sign of permanency here as was indicated at Koror in the Palaus. Truk lagoon is large enough to take care of the entire U. S. fleet but to make it practicable a great deal of blasting and dredging would be necessary.

Kapingamarangi, south of the Truk group, is one of the few real Polynesian islands left in that part of the Pacific. We could not get down there due to distance and lack of time at our disposal.

Mr. Speaker:

On December 21st, 1945, I completed an investigation trip, as a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, with a sub-committee of the House Naval Affairs Committee which covered the Far East and the ex-Japanese Mandates in the Pacific. I left Washington on November 21st and, during the month of our investigations we stopped at Pearl Harbor, Midway, Wake, Guam, Tokyo and Yokosuke in Japan; Tsingtao, Tientsin, Peiking and Shanghai in China; Yonabaru in the Ryukyus, Manila, Pelelul, Anguar, Koror and Babelthuap in the Palaus; Moen, Nosulun, Dublon, Uman and Ubet in the Truk Group and Kwajalein in the Marshalls.

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Midway belongs to the Leeward Island group of the Hawaiian Archipelago. This group stretches away in a long line for 1300 miles northwest of the inhabited Hawaiian Islands. All of them are very small and some are merely reefs. The ocean in their vicinity is notorious for uncertain and dangerous currents and for abrupt changes in the depth of the water. They were set aside as a bird reservation in 1909 and are now tenanted by thousands of sea-birds of various kinds. Some fishing operations are now being carried on in this group but they are seldom visited and, with the exception of Midway, have no inhabitants. Incidentally, Midway was discovered and claimed for the United States in 1859 when



Hawaii was still an independent country.

From Midway I went to Wake and, from the air, the landing strip looked very, very small. Wake is an atoll occupied an area  $4\frac{1}{2}$  by 2 miles. Its three islets, separated by shallow water, have a maximum altitude of about 20 feet. I left Wake on Thursday, November 28, (Thanksgiving Day) and on our way to Guam we flew low and circled Saipan, Tinian, Roto, and Pagan Islands in the Marianas. These were a part of the former Japanese mandates. Saipan looked beautiful from the air and it, along with Tinian was dotted with air strips and concentrations of material.

Guam is the southernmost, largest and most populous of the 15 islands comprising the Marianna group. It is about 30 miles long, varies in width from  $\frac{1}{4}$  to 8 miles and has a total area of 225 square miles. The island is the top of a great volcanic cone built up from the Pacific Ocean and its highest elevation is 1334 feet. Apru, on the west coast, has an excellent harbor, is well protected and has a large enough anchorage at all seasons for almost all classes of ships.

Guam is an extremely important link in the east-west chain of islands belonging to the United States. On the present airplane route to the Orient the distance from Guam to Wake is 1310 miles; to Manila, 1384 miles; to Truk, 555 miles; to Peleliu, 690 miles and to Kwajalein, 1550 miles.

The work of the naval government in Guam since the Washington Conference of 1921-22 has resolved itself largely into carrying out a constructive program for the benefit of the Guamanians. During the 250 years Spain had administered Guam its population had decreased tremendously. Under the navy, it had become one of the cleanest and most wholesome islands in the tropics. The population has more than doubled since 1898, proper sanitary and medical care has been provided and a free public educational system has been instituted.

The loyalty and gratitude of the Guamanians to the U. S. is unquestioned. On a number of occasions, they have petitioned for American citizenship, the latest in December, 1946, when the Guamanian Congress passed such a resolution, but



nothing as yet has been done. They do not want independence as they realize they lack experience and financial resources to continue their government without the support which comes to them directly and indirectly from federal appropriations and from service personnel on the island.

There is still a small number of Japanese soldiers at large on the island. They live in the jungle and subsist on what nature provides or they can steal. However, the number is gradually being whittled down and it will not be long before they will all be accounted for. The war trials of a number of captured and accused Japanese are being conducted there and sentences are being meted out.

I visited the hospital there and the School of Tropical Medicine which has been extremely good equipment but very little in the way of personnel to carry on the work necessary in Guam and the other Pacific islands now under our control. I believe that it would be a good and necessary policy for us to appropriate sufficient funds to operate this school on a first-class basis, to provide sufficient personnel to man it and to use it as a training school for native medical practitioners so that they could take care of the health needs in our islands. This has been done very successfully by the British who have established such a training center in Suva in the Fiji Island group and the results have been extremely gratifying. This type of education is necessary due to the fact that American doctors will not go to the islands because of inadequate salaries and because very few of them would be willing to make a career a life such as this would call for.

Guam, at the present time, is our real western line of defense. At present there are 12,000 Navy and Marine personnel and 18,000 Army personnel on the island. While this large number crowds the island now we had as many as 210,000 service personnel on Guam during the war.



The present Commander of the Mariannas, Rear-Admiral Pounell, is a tolerant and understanding administrator. He impressed me as a man who has the interests of both the natives and his country at heart. More administrators like him would be beneficial to the U. S. in our dealings with the peoples now under our control in the Pacific.

From Guam I went to Tokyo. We had hoped to go to Marcus Island but did not when we found out that it had, in effect, been "rolled up" and that it had only the one air-strip and that a sea-air rescue unit was stationed there.

Tokyo is in a very dilapidated state but the Japanese are cooperating very well with the Americans and conditions are, on the whole, good. The economy of Japan is coming back gradually and most of the people seem to like the Americans. During a three hour luncheon with General Douglas McArthur many pertinent questions were discussed. He stated that the Occupation of Japan was going along very well and that, to keep the situation under control, he had about 80,000 American troops plus some New Zealanders, Australian and Sikh troops to assist him. He stated that the Japanese people liked us. When asked about the U.S.S.R., he said that she was trying to make her influence felt in Japan and that, while she had no troops there, she did have a mission numbering in excess of 500 which was entirely too many for the amount of work they had to do.

McArthur pointed out that the Communist Party had little influence in Japan, that it was small but vocal and well organized, that it had only six members in the Diet. Women have 38 of their sex as Representatives in the Diet.

He pointed out that Japan will come back economically much sooner than the Philippines because of the way the Japanese will work. Tokyo and other ruined



cities in Japan will not be too long getting rebuilt whereas Manila will take much longer.

McArthur stated that the Japanese are now the world's greatest pacifists. They have gone from one extreme to the other because they were at their peak when they went to war and they lost. Hence, their system failed them and they have now become pacifists.

In contrast to Germany, McArthur said that the occupation of Japan has cost the United States nothing except for the payment of wages to our service personnel and their clothes, medical attention and food.

When questioned, McArthur stated our stay in Japan is indeterminate. Much will depend on the action of Congress and the reparations issue. He expressed general agreement with Ed Pauley's report on reparations but was opposed to some of it because it was not based on the fact that Japan had been stripped by bombing of much of her industry. In his opinion Japan must be made self-sustaining or it will cost the U. S. billions of dollars and millions of lives in the future. He favored the ex-Japanese Mandated Islands being made military reservations with all the rights of American citizens granted to the natives except the franchise. This, in effect, would be a continuation of the Guam type of government.

He is introducing land reforms to make it possible for the peasants to buy and own their own farms. He has taken away pensions and honors from all retired Japanese Army and Navy officers and he is determined to break the Japanese military caste. About 400 Japanese have already been tried and executed and about 1000 still remain to be tried. It is his contention that if he had not jailed the war criminals, the Japanese people would have killed them.



Relations between American service personnel and the Japanese people seem to be good. I am wondering, though, if our boys are not too young for the "police" type of duty which is their main job. While the Japanese women and youngsters seemed friendly, there was a certain surliness on the part of some of the men. The Japanese people look with distaste upon their returned soldiers. Japanese policemen, minus swords, seem to have a difficult time handling Korean and Formosans who cause much trouble. It has become necessary for the Japanese police to call on American M. P.'s for assistance in some quarters of Tokyo because the Koreans and Formosans are so difficult to handle.

From Tokyo I went to Yokosuke, the great Japanese Naval Base 40 miles south of the capital. This base was a remarkable one with its floating and stationary cranes, its six large drydocks--one of which can accommodate the biggest ship afloat--its caves dug into the mountains at the base which, as far as can be ascertained, run for more than 20 miles and were honeycombed with machine shops, radar equipment, chartrooms, munitions, etc. These caves are cut into the soapstone and they represent a well thought out job. One wonders at the Japanese mentality because we were informed on reliable authority that with the war they inducted their machine tool operators into the army and replaced them with farmers who had to be forced to work by guards armed with machine guns.

Yokosuke Navy Yard used to be surrounded by a high fence and no foreigners were ever allowed inside. 70,000 Japanese were employed at this base. No American ship had visited Yokosuke--except for a brief stop of an American fleet on a round the world tour in 1908--until after VJ Day. It was as much of a secret base as it was humanly possible to achieve. Even today the old Navy Yard workers and their townspeople are not too friendly but under administration of Captain Benton Becker, U. S. N., much progress is being made and a major base for



the repair of American ships in the Far Pacific will soon be in the making.

I believe that Japan must be allowed to maintain a self-sustaining economy, otherwise it will be necessary for us to export foodstuffs to her and, maybe, create a kind of dependency which would create disastrous consequences for us.

On VJ Day the Japanese did not have a battleship afloat although the Nagoya--riddled in the Battle of Leyte--was being repaired. On that date the Japanese had 3000 planes left but they did not have the gas necessary to get off the ground. From 1940 to 1945, Japan built 60,000 planes of all types which compares with our yearly production during the war years.

In Japan's schools we are changing the contents of their textbooks to coincide with our views but we are doing nothing to further the health of the school children. The schools are cold and have no heat, the students still wear uniforms and girls are still not allowed to go to the universities.

At Hiroshima I saw the results of the first atom bomb--16 months after. The shells or outside of some 10 or 12 modern buildings were left standing and some wooden houses were going up in the devastated area. There was no sign of a garden in the 4 square mile bombed area. The destruction here was terrible and the sight of what man's terrible destructive genius can accomplish is enough to make one shudder.

From Hiroshima I went to Tsingtao in Shantung Province, north of China. We do not have a naval base here, or anywhere else in China. The Russians have a base at Port Arthur based on the Sino-Soviet Treaty of 1945. Tsingtao is the logical place for the Chinese navy to build itself and we have furnished them with ships and, at present, are supplying them with American naval instructions.

Our policy in China, according to Admiral Cooke, Commander of the U. S. Seventh Naval Fleet, has been to assist the movement of Central Government armies to northwest China; to repatriate Japanese to their homeland; to help move



supplies into famine districts; and to help repair damaged Chinese ports.

Our Marine Corps activities have been reduced so that Marines guards have been taken off the coal trains from Tientsin to Chingwantao. Marine personnel is being constantly cut down in numbers and their only duty now is to support Executive Headquarters in Peiping. Executive Headquarters is composed of members of the Kuomintang, the Communists, and the U. S. Army and its main purpose seems to be to send out truce teams to help bring about a cessation of hostilities between the Kuomintang and the Communists. As a matter of fact the U. S. Army is the real Executive Headquarters and the Marines supply the logistics support. The Marines had been used to protect the coal mines and the railroads but these functions have now been taken over by the Nationalist troops.

During my China visit the Chinese National Assembly was in session at Nanking but the Communists have refused to join it stating they were not being given enough voice in the government.

In early December, 1946, there were approximately 40,000 Naval and Marine personnel in China, Japan and Okinawa. The U. S. Army, in China, had approximately 4000 men there with one-half stationed at Peiping and one-half at Nanking.

The Chinese are building a naval base at Tsingtao and the personnel there seem to be a good, well disciplined group. The Chinese have difficulty in understanding the sciences and seem rather difficult to teach electronics and radar.

While in Tsingtao I saw some "volunteers" for the Central Government's Army. They were tied together with ropes and being driven to their barracks. This is really nothing new as China's armies have been getting this type of recruit for many years past.

After leaving Tsingtao I went to Tientsin and Peiping. In the latter city I talked with General Gillam, the American Commissioner at Executive Headquarters.



He stated that while the situation between the Communists and the Kuomintang was tense that the door was not entirely closed to further negotiations. At that time there were very few truce teams out in the field and negotiations between the two opposing factions had developed into a stalemate.

For the Kuomintang, the C. C. Clique dominated by the Chen brothers, is still a very potent factor. This group is opposed to a compromise with the opposition. The Chinese people seem to be afraid of the Kuomintang which has the secret agents everywhere. The Chinese are beginning to indicate their dislike of foreigners of all kinds and they are showing evidences of an anti-American spirit based, I believe, on the presence of our service personnel in their country.

In the Chinese cities I visited I noticed the beginnings of youth movements among boys and girls. They wear uniforms, march in step and have distinctive slogans. These movements can be channeled into democratic lines like our Boy Scouts or they can become vehicles for dictatorship as the youth movements in Italy and Germany were. Only time will tell what their ultimate effect will be.

From information I gathered in north China the Russians did a very thorough job of looting Manchuria and pillaging that area and its people. Now, in retaliation, the Chinese are doing the same things to the Russians in the parts of Manchuria they control.

In her dealings with the Central Government the Russians are scrupulously correct. No Russian materl, as such, is going to the Communists but the Russians did leave captured Japanese war supplies--as they withdrew--where it would be convenient for the Chinese Communists to take it over. The Kuomintang armies are well equipped and supplies by us; the Communist armies steal or take whatever they

can. The Communists are very anti-American and they have put out very defamatory posters in Yenan and perhaps elsewhere, showing American marines in a very ~~favorable~~ unfavorable light.

From Peiping I went to Shanghai and from there to Yonabaru on Okinawa. Okinawa is an island in the Ryukyus 67 miles long by 10 miles wide. Well over 100 ships of all types are beached or on their sides, mute evidence to the effectiveness of the great typhoon of last year.

At present, Okinawa is manned by 12,000 American soldiers but only a few in excess of 1000 sailors. From a naval point of view this base is in the "caretaker" status and opinion is very divided as to what its future disposition should be. Due to its vulnerability to severe types of weather plus the availability of a big modern base at Yokosuke it would appear that except for its use as an "eye" on our defense perimeter it would not be a worthwhile, permanent installation.

On December 10, I arrived at Peleliu in the Palau and immediately went by seaplane to the island of Anguar to look into the dispositions of the phosphate deposits there. We have a million tons of this valuable commodity in Anguar and a contract has been let to an American concern--the Pomeroy Company--to dig it out. It is being sent to Japan, in Japanese ships, to help rehabilitate the soil there and thus to make the country become more self-supporting. The natives are being paid 55¢ a day, and Japanese sent from Japan, \$3.50 a day. The American workers are paid at prevailing stateside wages. The phosphate is to be mined at the rate of 300,000 tons a year.

The phosphate at Anguar is extremely rich and valuable for medicinal purposes as well as for use as fertilizer. This phosphate could be used in Hawaii, where it is needed badly, or by nations like the Philippines and China allied with us in the war. There are approximately 200 American civil employees here and the contract is on a cost-plus-fixed-fee basis which could bear looking into. Further



more, according to the Great Falls, Montana Tribune of December 19th, 500,000 tons of Montana and Idaho phosphate have also been scheduled to go to Japan and Korea immediately.

From Anguar I went to Koror which used to be the seat of the Japanese South Seas Government and which directly ruled all the Mandated Islands. There was much permanent building done here and all indications point to the Japanese being here to stay. In the back of the Governor's Mansion there was a grass inlaid map of the Palaus which was remarkable for its intricate detail. The Japanese had 35,000 troops on Koror but we never did attempt to take the island. There was the remains of an old Japanese shrine--now occupied by a church--in back of which gun emplacements can still be seen.

From Koror I went by boat to Babelthup the largest island in the group and visited some native villages and schools. In the Palaus the children are being taught English which they have to learn from Japanese characters. They seem to be learning our language fairly rapidly.

On Babelthup I visited a men's clubhouse--to which women are never admitted, and noticed the painting and engraving of various kinds of roosters, fanciful animals of different kinds, and men in assorted kinds of positions. This island is little known and has hardly been visited by white men.

When I saw the mangrove swamps I shuddered to think what American boys had to go through in taking Peleliu and other islands in the Pacific. When I visited our cemeteries on Peleliu and Anguar, when I looked over Bloody Nose Ridge and when I viewed Orange and Purple beaches, I didn't feel too well.

We have a lot of surplus equipment in the Palaus which we might as well forget because it is either useless or will be soon. Many of our Pacific island holdings are now Quonset hut affairs. The U. S. Commercial Company, a



subsidiary of the R.F.C., has a monopoly on trading with the natives in our newly acquired possessions. This organization encourages native handicrafts and buys what the natives produce and then send it to the U. S. for sale. Much that the natives produce is crude but, with a market, their handicraft can be improved and their subsistence, in part at least, can be taken care of.

The Japanese built up strong defenses, not as complete as those at Truk, but more powerful than those normally built at an outlying base. The Paluan fortifications suffered the first attack when the 81st Army Infantry Division stormed the shores of Anguar about a week previous to the assault on Peleliu by the 1st Marine Division (Reinforced) on 15 September 1944. The Army supported the Peleliu invasion with artillery fire from Anguar during the early stages of the attack, and two weeks later the Army joined the Marines on Peleliu to aid in the fight. November, 1944, Peleliu was secured.

No attempt was made to invade the major islands north of Peleliu, but, with the two bases, Peleliu and Anguar, being operated mainly as air bases, our planes were able to keep the other islands in the Palaus constantly harrassed and subdued. These islands capitulated after V-J Day.

The Palau islands lie in a chain 20 miles wide running roughly north-northeast to south-southwest for 77 miles. Most northerly is Babelthuap, which is also the biggest, while at the south is Anguar, rich in phosphate deposits. The islands are very irregular in shape and, in general, hilly with the exception of those at the northern and southern extremes. Through the center of the group there is a distinct geological division between islands on the north which are volcanic basalt and islands to the south which are limestone. There is an overlapping of geological types near the center. Western Koror, Malakal, Arakabesan, and isolated portions of Aurapushekaru are volcanic in composition,



while the south appendages of Babelthuap, eastern Koror, Ngargol, and almost all of Aurapushekaru are limestone.

The topographical differences between the volcanic and limestone portions of Palau has considerable effect on the importance and usefulness of the islands. While basaltic Babelthuap is hilly and has the highest peaks of the chain, 790 feet, at its northwest tip, it and the other volcanic islands in central Palau are steep, hogbacked, narrow, and generally cliff-bordered. Although their characteristics discourage settlement, they form excellent windbreaks and breakwaters for the harbors and anchorages of Palau, such as Shonian Harbor. The two southernmost of the limestone formations, Peleliu, and Anguar, are generally level and useful for settlements.

Babelthuap is volcanic with bauxite, manganese, and lignite (coal) deposits. About 23 miles long and four to eight miles wide, its northern section where the bauxite mines are worked is rather bare; its southern section is hilly, crossed by many ridges, and not too heavily wooded. Its coast is lined with mangrove swamps with a few sandy beaches at off intervals. Six small rivers which are navigable for a distance of a mile or more from their mouths by shallow-draft boats are channeled across the island. Babelthuap also boasts a small spring-fed lake.

Koror's coast is devoid of beaches and to the west is mangrove, to the east limestone cliffs. It is about three miles long and covers an area of less than three square miles. Ferry service unites it with Babelthuap. Koror was the center for Japanese military, naval, and political activity and a sizeable modern town was built on its western side. Now Koror is the center of Military Government for the Palaus and a large hospital functions there.

Peleliu is approximately 5 miles long with a maximum width of a little over two miles. Mangrove swamps, sandy beaches, and coral ledges alternately surround the island. The island is a limestone foundation, flat except for a



northeast-southwest ridge north of the airfield. The ridge has abrupt cliffs and is pitted with about five hundred caves which vary in size from mere holes in the rock to large caves partially excavated by the Japanese for use as storage or for hospitals. Caves are known to extend under the north end of the airstrip and cause portions of the roadway to sink. The Japanese built a good airfield and air arsenal on Peleliu. Just off the western reef, near what is called Orange Beach, is an anchorage suitable for large vessels.

Palau has great military and commercial importance and has been for years the center of Japanese political control of all her Pacific mandated Islands. In this island group, as you have read, the Japanese operated a major military base, a fleet anchorage and supply base, an airfield, and seaplane bases (near Koror).

Palau's location gives it considerable strategic importance. One thousand miles west of Truk and only 530 miles from Davao in the southern Phillipines, it commands the sea and air routes from China and Japan to New Guinea and the western Dutch East Indies. For this reason it was an important trans-shipment point for movements of enemy ships, troops, planes, and supplies to the southwest Pacific theater of operations.

From the Palaus I went to the Truk group in the Eastern Carolines. Our Military Government headquarters are located on Moen island. This island—and all the others in this group—is beautiful. Moen has such things as waterfalls, dense vegetation and a heavy precipitation. I also visited the islands of Romulan, Udot, Dublin and Uman.

The people here are light brown in appearance, very docile, and easy to handle. We were entertained on all the islands by singing and dancing. There are about 10,000 inhabitants in the Truk group compared to 5900 in the Palaus. Both the Trukese and the Palauans impressed me as a happy but bewildered people.



The diseases of greatest prevalence in both groups are tuberculosis and intestinal parasites. Due to the use of penicillin, yaws--which used to be quite prevalent--have been cleared up; there is no indication of syphilis and very little gonorrhoea. Sanitary habits are being introduced by the Navy and outdoor toilets are much in use.

Neither the Palauans or the Trukese care to work too much as they have all the necessities of life--except tobacco--and in this respect they are rationed at the rate of 4 cartons a month. The standard rate of pay in both groups is 40¢ a day.

Truk was not the Japanese "Pearl Harbor" the American public had been let to believe in. The Japanese had a battery of eight 8-inch guns on Moen and a system of caves on all the islands similar to those in use in Japan. Dublin island was their headquarters and from there the movements of their 4th Fleet and 31st Army Division were directed. Fortifications were of a very weak character and kind. There was no sign of permanency here as was indicated at Koror in the Palaus. Truk lagoon is large enough to take care of the entire U. S. fleet but to make it practicable a great deal of blasting and dredging would be necessary.

Kapingamaringi, south of the Truk group, is one of the few real Polynesian islands left in that part of the Pacific. We could not get down there due to distance and lack of time at our disposal.