

A (Rehabilitation)
5 (Summary)

31 December 47

Ponape District

It is becoming increasingly clear that we are not dealing with a group of people who will merely do something because we tell them to or because we say it is good. These people have great respect and great admiration for the Americans and for the American people, however, with that respect and admiration they desire to try to emulate us rather than retrogress to a state of living and existence which even compared to the way they live now was rather primitive. There is not the slightest desire to encourage nor to make these islanders become Americans or act like Americans, it is simply that in being here and bringing with us the advances of civilization and science we have raised their wants and desires far beyond what they had in bygone times, and it seems rather ridiculous to ask or expect them to give up the very things we have ourselves brought to them or live in "native style" again.

While it is true that the post office has been authorized for Ponape the designation of a mail clerk has not yet been approved and money order service can not yet be inaugurated. The people have been advised whenever they ask about goods and material that they are free to order from Guam or other areas and that just as soon as the money order service can be started their orders can be handled.

This should improve the inflow of goods and materials desired by the people. The principal cause for concern with reference to the goods and materials for the area is the fact that these people can not long afford to buy these items at the price that now exist in the United States and its possessions.

0339