

29 January 1944

Lt. General Robert C. Richardson  
Commanding General, Central Pacific Area  
Fort Shafter, Territory of Hawaii

Dear General:

Here is another blast from Stainback that I am passing on. If you have any comments you would like me to have send them on.

You know I think that the term Military Governor is something which sticks in the craw of Stainback, and in all justice, I cannot myself see the necessity for continuing that title. A military governor has, by military tradition, been linked with occupied enemy territory and because of this connotation it is the source of considerable annoyance to Stainback. I had talked with you about a quiet abandonment of that title sometime ago, but I do not think I ever heard from you on it.

Governor Stainback has recommended to Secretary Ickes that this matter be carried to the President for an ultimate decision, should the War Department fail to rescind the martial law order. Such a procedure has the advantage of clarifying this situation for the present and a considerable time in the future. I have opposed and would continue to oppose the abolition of martial law in Hawaii unless you gave me reasons that I do not now have in mind for abandoning it. In many respects Hawaii is today more in danger of attack than it has been for a year. It is becoming a vast training area and the chief base for our stepped up offensive operations.

I have informed Secretary Ickes that a reply to his letter of January 26 will await an answer from you.

Sincerely,  
(SIGNED) JOHN J. McCLOY

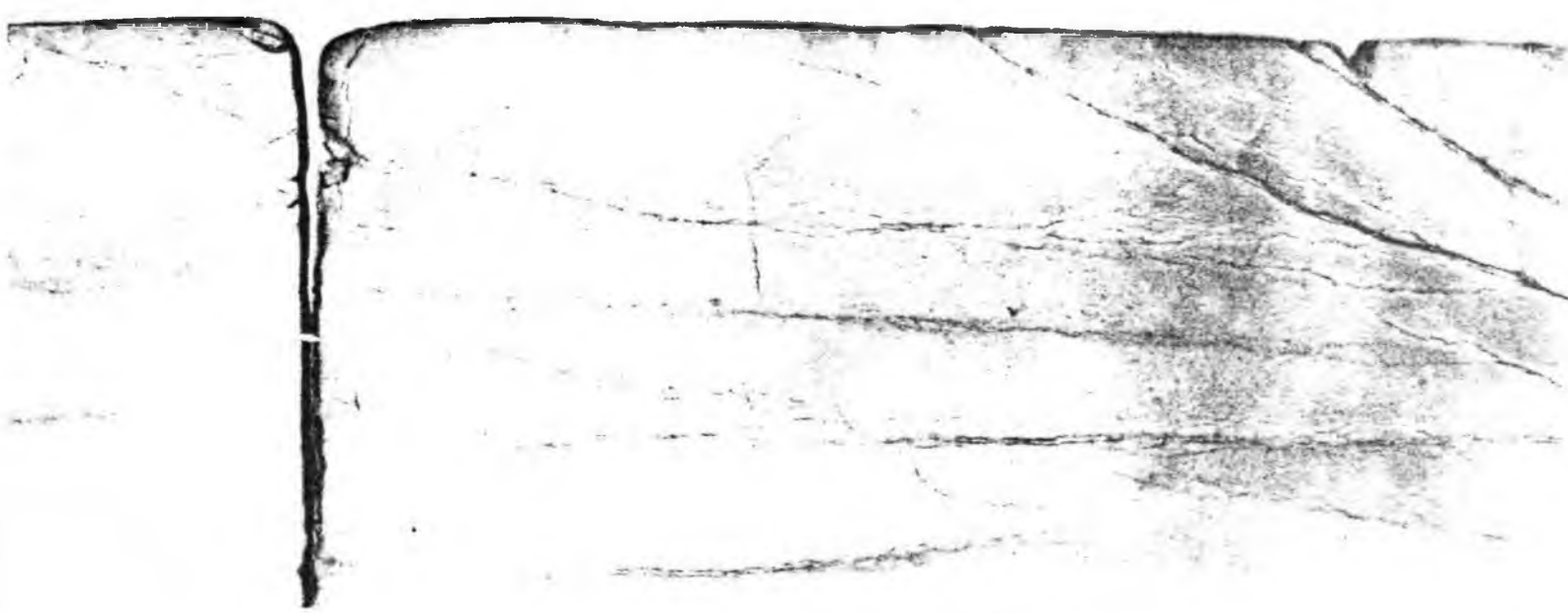
John J. McCloy

Enc.  
Ltr. Jan 26 '44 fm. 3/Interior to ANV  
Attaching CC ltr. Jan 15 '44 to 3/Interior fm. Stainback.

cc - Secretary of Navy  
CPA - Central Pacific

X - Central Pacific, C.V.  
X - H/Interior

29 Jan 44



SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

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Washington

January 26, 1944

My dear Jack:

For your information I enclose a copy of a letter from Governor Stainback on the subject of "Martial Law and Military Government". I also enclose a photostatic copy of excerpts from a statement by Lt. General Robert C. Richardson, Jr. published in the HONOLULU ADVERTISER under date of January 13, from which it appears that he said that the "Japanese are unlikely to return to the offensive," notwithstanding which, he has continued to cling to the self-assumed title of "Military Governor" and insist upon martial law for a territory that is not in danger of attack.

I also send you a photostatic copy of certain statistics supplies by the Governor.

Sincerely yours,

(s) Harold L. Ickes

Secretary of the Interior

Hon. John J. McCloy  
Assistant Secretary of War  
Washington, D. C.

Enc.

C O P Y

January 15, 1944

Honorable Harold L. Ickes  
Secretary of the Interior  
Washington 25, D. C.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I shall try to give you as briefly as possible a report on "the state of the Territory". Nothing unusual or alarming has occurred since last I saw you.

Martial Law and Military Government.

First and foremost, the continuance of martial law and the so-called military government gives me deep concern. Any justification for its existence has long ceased and I believe its further continuance is in direct violation of the United States Constitution as well as the Organic Act of the Territory. I feel that I would be derelict in my duty unless I exert every effort to abolish it forthwith. If the War Department will not consent to this, I believe we should go to the President and show him the situation. As the Government placed the Territory under martial law with the approval of the President, I assume the revocation should proceed the same way.

Martial law should be revoked because:

(1) It can no longer be truthfully said that Hawaii is in "imminent danger" of invasion. Even the Army and the Navy no longer refer to it as a combat area but a regional depot. The recent statements by the Secretary of the Navy, the Secretary of War, and the enclosed statement of General Richardson, as well as practically all others in a position of responsibility and authority in the Army and Navy, show that we are in no imminent danger of invasion. While we may be still open to attack, that is true of the West coast, Alaska, or, for that matter, the east coast.

(2) The existing law grants ample power to both civil and military authorities to cope with any emergency including all reasonable regulations for military protection.

(3) The restoration of civil government, as far as it went, has been accomplished with no disorder or difficulties.

Honorable Harold L. Ickes  
Washington, 25, D. C.

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The main objection of the Army ( and I presume the Navy) to revocation of martial law is, as I was advised by General Richardson some weeks ago when I discussed with him the advisability of repealing martial law, that the military desires to preserve control over labor. (As you know, the military under the "treaty of Washington" maintained its control over its own civilian labor, public utility laborers, the dock workers and labor employed by Army and Navy contractors).

The military control of labor has been exercised by jail sentences of unexcused absentees handed out by "provost courts". The provost courts consist of a one-man court appointed by and subject to the military commander, from whose judgment there is no appeal; naturally, where you have a number of such individuals exercising autocratic power throughout the Territory the inevitable result in some of them, if not most of them, are very arbitrary, particularly as few of the provost judges are lawyers.

Yet, in spite of military control and jail sentences, statistics indicate that there is higher absenteeism in the ranks of labor subject to military control than that among those under civil control. I am convinced that if the existing Federal regulations relating to manpower and wages are made completely effective in Hawaii, the war effort here would benefit thereby; that there would be a better spirit among labor, a wiser use of labor, and a decrease in absenteeism. Labor under military control here is a form of involuntary servitude enforced as it were at the point of a bayonet. I do not believe that the President or the country at large would approve of such procedure and, furthermore, it is, as stated above, not effective control.

I am inclined to believe that the influence of Dillingham and others of his like is the chief reason for the Army and Navy wishing to continue its control over dock workers, public utility laborers, and employees of Army and Navy contracts (as well as its own civilian employees). There might be some argument for control of dock laborers but I can see none whatever for military control of the laborers of public utilities in general.

Incidentally, Mr. Dillingham and his family are the controlling stockholders in the Oahu Railway and he and his associates own more than fifty percent of the docks in Honolulu Harbor; he is financially interested in the Honolulu Rapid Transit and other utilities in the Islands. He makes it a point to get under his influence and control every new General or Admiral who comes into the Islands; of course he entertains them elaborately at his beautiful residence, but I do not understand how high-ranking Army and Navy men can so easily be taken in by him. Further, Mr. Dillingham never hesitates to use

Honorable Harold L. Ickes  
Washington, 25, D. C.

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this control for his own advantage and is not at all modest about allowing notoriety to be given to the fact that he does "control" the Admirals and the Generals.

#### Housing

The housing situation here is about as bad as it can be. We are getting a few dribbles of lumber now but there is a shortage of all building materials. The Army and Navy of course have, and have had for a year or more, huge supplies but they will not release any for civilian use, claiming that it is all needed for military purposes, though some of it has been stored here so long that I fear it may already be termite infested. This housing shortage has been caused by the influx of war workers and Army and Navy officers who are occupying quarters throughout the city; at least this latter should be prohibited by the Army and Navy authorities and their officers compelled to reside on the reservations.

#### Transportation

The transportation problem, as far as civilians is concerned, is desperate. The return of civilians, except those employed by Army and Navy or the government, has entirely ceased.

There are at present fifty-three Territorial public school teachers and University of Hawaii faculty members stranded on the mainland who have been awaiting transportation to Hawaii for many months, and several thousand other citizens of the Territory stranded in San Francisco and elsewhere on the mainland.

While no one desires to interfere with the war efforts, we feel that permitting civilian employees of the Army and Navy and their contractors to return to the coast for several months for vacations and then permitting them to come back to Hawaii, while civilian residents of Hawaii are in effect banished from the realm, is not justified.

I am enclosing a list of civilians arriving in the Territory during October and November, 1943, which should be interesting. I have been unable thus far to obtain the December compilation.

It should be remembered that many of these Honolulu residents - wives and children - left here practically under orders of the military authorities, some of them as long as two years ago, and in many cases this has resulted in complete breaking up of families. One trip of one large passenger ship could bring down the whole 3300 or more residents of Honolulu who have been waiting in San Francisco for transportation.

Honorable Harold L. Ickes  
Washington, 25, D. C.

January 15, 1944

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#### Health

The health of the community has been fair in spite of crowded conditions and blackout which, incidentally, has been relaxed somewhat. Last month there was an additional case of human plague on Hawaii in the Hamakua District, making a total of seven for last year (with 100% fatalities). Every precaution is being taken and we believe there should be no cause for undue alarm as we have had an average of three or four cases a year in that district for the last forty years, though the last time that this 1943 number was equalled was in 1928 when eight cases occurred; bubonic plague seems to be endemic to this district as infected rats are caught in large numbers in that particular district every year. Luckily, it seems to be confined to the Hamakua District.

In Honolulu we have been making an intensive campaign against mosquitoes and I think are succeeding fairly well in controlling them and the dengue fever epidemic which has prevailed here for the last six months. The Army has promised us some 400 additional personnel to help in this work. This will be of great assistance.

#### Labor Shortage

The labor shortage is still acute, particularly in agriculture and in laundries, restaurants, and personal services of all kinds, salespeople, maids, mechanics, etc., in the city of Honolulu. Plantations as far as possible are substituting mechanical aids though it is difficult to obtain the necessary machines and equipment.

#### Selective Service

We have had no calls in the Territory since February, 1943, except in June 1943 for a call for 700 men, which call eliminated Japanese and Filipino registrants. In addition, a number of volunteers have been inducted, including some 2000 citizens of Japanese ancestry.

The representatives of General Hershey are here and I have discussed with them at great length the question of applying the draft act to Hawaii.

I am heartily in favor of the Territory bearing its share of national burdens in this regard and have so recommended with the proviso that there be no racial discrimination nor elimination of those of Japanese ancestry in the coming draft.

Honorable Harold L. Ickes  
Washington, 25, D. C.

January 15, 1944

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Federal Agencies

I am also strongly in favor of all federal agencies operating in the Territory. I feel, therefore, that the War Labor Board should establish an office in the Territory and function here, as elsewhere in the United States. I made such representation when in Washington but thus far without effect. I believe that the War Labor Board and, particularly, its wage stabilization plan is necessary in the Territory if we are to avoid more serious labor difficulties. I hope you can do something in this matter.

Sincerely,

INGRAM M. SPAINBACK  
Governor of Hawaii

Encls-2.

THE HONOLULU ADVERTISER  
Thursday Morning, January 13, 1944

(Excerpts from Statement of Lt. General Robert C. Richardson, Jr.)

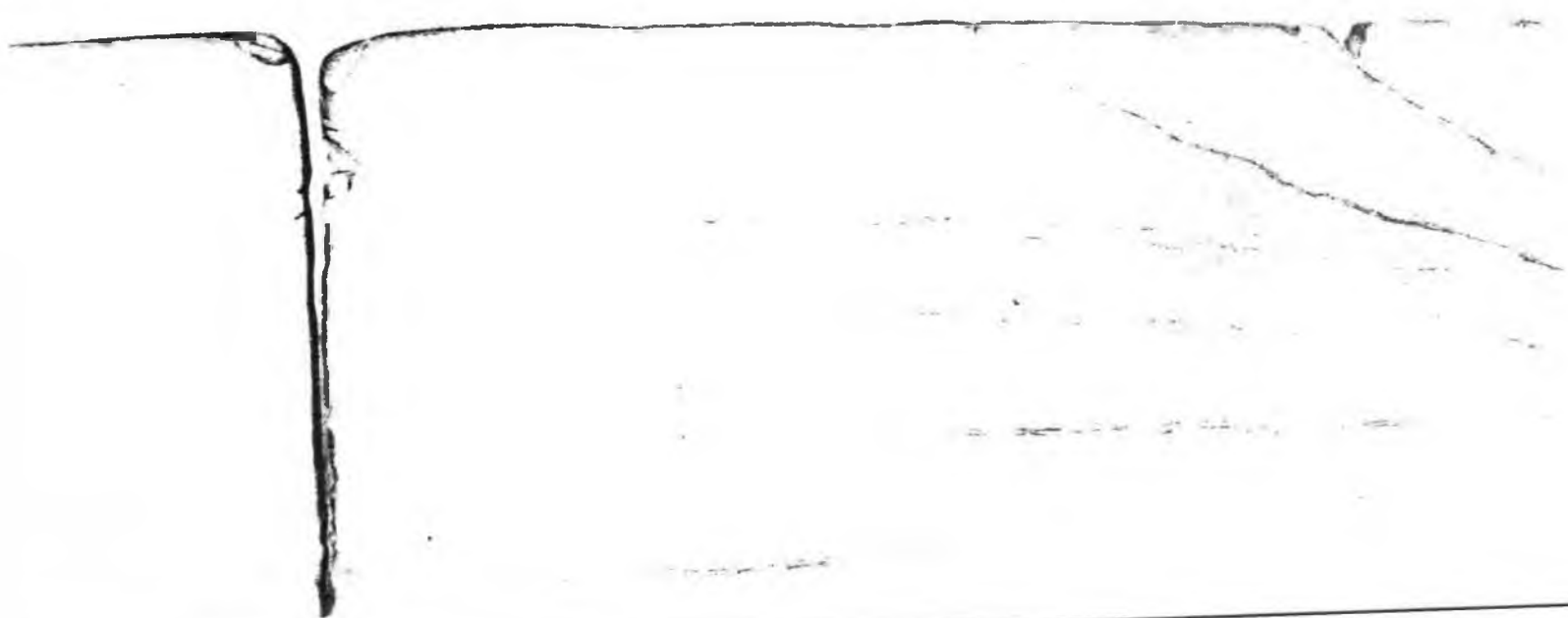
The turning point in the Pacific came in the battle of the Coral Sea, which, he said, marked the high tide of Jap conquests, and together with the battle of Midway restored the balance of sea power in the Pacific to the U.S.

Unlikely to Return

"Since that time our forces have been on the offensive in ever-increasing intensity and the Japanese are unlikely to return to the offensive," he declared.

"... Any offensive they might attempt would be purely tactical, one designed to divert our forces from attacks on their defenses. They would much prefer to sit back within the confines of their vast empire and hope that the United Nations tire of the war and seek a face-saving peace, leaving Japan most of the wealth of the empire and enabling the Land of the Rising Sun to dominate world economics for years to come."

C O P Y





Statistical Compilation of Persons  
Entering Territory of Hawaii from  
Mainland United States, October 1st  
to November 30, 1943, Inclusive

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Seamen . . . . .	192
Technicians . . . . .	1
Aircraft . . . . .	78
Civilian Employees . . . . .	17
Student . . . . .	1
News Correspondents . . . . .	4
Registered Nurses . . . . .	4
U.S.O. entertainers . . . . .	4

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Total . . 298

C O P Y

STATISTICAL COMPILATION OF PERSONS  
ENTERING TERRITORY OF HAWAII  
from  
MAINLAND UNITED STATES  
OCTOBER 1st to NOVEMBER 30, 1947, INCL.

OCTOBER

Male . . . . .	649
Female . . . . .	<u>27</u>
Total . . . . .	676

Segregated as follows:

New Defense Workers (Pearl Harbor) . . . . .	310
Defense Workers evacuated & returned . . . . .	96
Civil Service . . . . .	58
Army . . . . .	21
Navy . . . . .	18
Federal . . . . .	4
Red Cross Nurses . . . . .	1
Red Cross - Others . . . . .	<u>14</u>
Total . . . . .	<u>58</u>

Others . . . . .	212
Seamen . . . . .	149
Technicians . . . . .	10
Aircraft . . . . .	41
Civilian Employees . . . . .	6
USC Entertainers . . . . .	<u>6</u>
Total . . . . .	<u>212</u>
Grand Total . . . . .	676

NOVEMBER

Male . . . . .	1690
Female . . . . .	<u>195</u>
Total . . . . .	1885

Segregated as follows:

New Defense Workers (Pearl Harbor) . . . . .	540
Defense Workers evacuated & returned . . . . .	858
Defense Worker's Children . . . . .	1
Island Residents returned . . . . .	1
Civil Service . . . . .	187
Army . . . . .	60
Navy . . . . .	70
Federal . . . . .	35
Red Cross Nurses . . . . .	1
Red Cross - Others . . . . .	<u>21</u>
Total . . . . .	<u>187</u>
Others . . . . .	298