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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY Azel DATE FEB. 25 1987

UNCLASSIFIED: 726

RDS or XDS EXT. DATE
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ACTION: EA: 15:

INFO JPM 04, CIAE 00, DODE 00, INR 07, NSAE 00, P 04, RSC 01, USIA 12, 10, 13,

INT 06, RSRI 01, /063 W:

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R: 212326Z MAR 69
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO USCAR NAHA OKINAWA
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3580
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SUBJ: VISIT OF MICRONESIAN STATUS COMMISSION

1. THE FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS, IS CURRENTLY IN CANBERRA WHILE ON TOUR THROUGH PACIFIC TERRITORIES AND COUNTRIES AS PART OF ITS TASK OF EXAMINING POSSIBLE POLITICAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL ALTERNATIVES OPEN TO TRUST TERRITORY. THE COMMISSION IS COMPOSED AS FOLLOWS:

- SENATOR LAZARUS SALII (CHAIRMAN)
- SENATOR AMATA KABUA (MEMBER)
- SENATOR TOSIWO NAKAYAMA (MEMBER)
- SENATOR FRANCISCO T. PALACIOS (MEMBER)
- SENATOR BAILEY OLTER (MEMBER)
- REPRESENTATIVE JOHN A. MANGEFEL (MEMBER)
- MR. CARL HEINE (COMMISSION STAFF ASSISTANT)
- MR. ISIDORO RUDIMCH (MICRONESIAN BUSINESSMAN AND COMM. OBSERVER)
- MR. ATLAN ANIENI (MICRONESIAN BUSINESSMAN AND COMM. OBSERVER)

2. COMMISSION CHAIRMAN SENATOR SALII HAS DECIDED IT WOULD BE USEFUL VISIT OKINAWA WHILE EN ROUTE BACK TO SAIPAN AND HAS REQUESTED EMBASSY TO INFORM YOU THAT COMMISSION WOULD APPRECIATE ANY ASSISTANCE YOUR OFFICE MAY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE. GROUP WILL ARRIVE IN OKINAWA FROM MANILA ABOUT APRIL 1 AND WILL DEPART ABOUT APRIL 4. WE HOPE TO TRANSMIT PRECISE FLIGHT DETAILS EARLY

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NEXT WEEK, OTHERWISE COMMISSION WILL ADVISE FROM MANILA IN ABOUT ONE WEEK. WE HAVE ISSUED OKINAWA ENTRY PERMITS TO ALL MEMBERS PARTY. THEY CARRY TRUST TERRITORY PASSPORTS.

3. IN TERMS ASSISTANCE REQUIRED, COMMISSION WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOUR OFFICE COULD MAKE HOTEL RESERVATIONS (FIVE DOUBLE BEDROOMS) AND ARRANGE APPOINTMENTS WITH SENIOR US CIVIL AND LOCAL OKINAWAN AUTHOCGTIES TO DISCUSS OKINAWA'S POLITICAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS. SINCE OKINAWA VISIT IS ALSO REST STOP PRIOR RETURNING SAIPAN, GROUP PREFERENCES LIGHT PROGRAM.

4. BY SEPTEL WE ARE SENDING BRIEF BIOGRAPHIES OF COMMISSION MEMBERS. FOLLOWING BACKGROUND ON COMMITTEE, PROVIDED IN LETTER TO THIS EMBASSY FROM TRUST TERRITORY HIGH COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE, MAY ALSO BE USEFUL TO YOU.

5. "THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA IS AUTHORIZED UNDER SECRETARIAL ORDER NO. 2918, DEPT. OF THE INTERIOR. IT IS COMPOSED OF ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES FROM THROUGHOUT THE TRUST TERRITORY AND IS NOT SUBJECT TO DIRECT UNITED STATES SUPERVISION, ALTHOUGH ITS ESTABLISHMENT AND THE SCOPE OF ITS AUTHORITY ARE THE RESULT OF UNITED STATES EXECUTIVE ACTION AND THE INDIVIDUAL ACTS OF THE CONGRESS ARE SUBJECT TO VETO BY THE HIGH COMMISSIONER, AND IF REPASSED OVER HIS VETO, BY THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

6. "THE FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION WAS CREATED BY THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA IN JULY, 1967 AND ASSIGNED, AMONG OTHERS, THE FOLLOWING TASKS: (1) TO EXAMINE AND REPORT ON THE POLITICAL STATUS ALTERNATIVES OPEN TO THE MICRONESIANS; (2) TO RECOMMEND A PROGRAM OF POLITICAL EDUCATION; (3) TO RECOMMEND PROCEDURES FOR ASCERTAINING THE WISHES OF THE PEOPLE; AND (4) TO CONDUCT A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF HOW OTHER COUNTRIES ATTAINED THEIR RESPECTIVE POLITICAL STATUS. THE COMMISSION SUBMITTED AN INTERIM REPORT IN JULY OF 1968 AND IS NOW PREPARING ITS FINAL REPORT FOR SUBMISSION IN JULY, 1969.

7. "WHEN THE COMMISSION MET LAST JULY AND THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE COMMISSION, ESTABLISHED ITS AGENDA AND ITINERARY FOR THE COMING YEAR, THEY DID NOT ANTICIPATE MAKING A TRIP THROUGH THE SOUTH PACIFIC. IT IS TRUE THAT THEY DID HAVE A RATHER FULL SCHEDULE, BUT AS PREVIOUSLY STATED, THE SOUTH PACIFIC WAS NOT INCLUDED.

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8. "DURING THE LATTER HALF OF 1968 THEY CARRIED OUT THE FIRST PART OF THE AGENDA AND, WITH THE COMING OF A NEW CONGRESS, REORGANIZED IN JANUARY TO COMPLETE THE SECOND HALF OF THEIR AGENDA."

9. "IT WAS AT THIS TIME THAT PROFESSOR J.W. DAVIDSON CONVINCED THEM THAT THEY SHOULD ALTER THEIR ORIGINAL ITINERARY AND MAKE A RATHER EXTENSIVE TOUR THROUGH THE SOUTH PACIFIC."

10. "THE COMMISSION HAS PREFERRED TO MAKE THEIR OWN ARRANGEMENTS AND WE KNOW VERY LITTLE REGARDING THEIR PROCEDURE."
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