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 TS AUTH. BAAS REASON(S) E.O. 12356  
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 EA - Mr. Marshall Green

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**EXCISE**

December 24, 1970

THROUGH: EA - Ambassador Winthrop G. Brown  
 EA/ANZ - James V. Martin, Jr.

Three Reports from the POLAD in Saipan  
 -- INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

John Dorrance, our Political Adviser to the High Commissioner for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (Micronesia), has recently sent three telegrams of interest. They are, in chronological order, 1) a long and detailed report of a visit he recently made to the Palau District, 2) a recent conversation with Senator Salii (co-Chairman of the expiring Future Political Status Commission of the Congress of Micronesia), and 3) a report on attitudes in the Mariana Islands on future political status. They are attached at Tabs A, B, and C, respectively. A brief summary of each follows:

1. Dorrance spent a week in the Palau District, the westernmost of the six districts, in early December. This long and discouraging report on Palauan attitudes regarding the future of Micronesia makes it clear that we face difficult times, regardless of how forthcoming we may be. Dorrance reports

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3. The report on Marianas District attitudes confirms what has already been reported; that the Marianas would like nothing better than to join Guam (which is geographically a Mariana Island) and hitch their wagon permanently to the U. S. The Marianas delegation to the new Congress of Micronesia have already caucused and reaffirmed their intention to push for Commonwealth or similar status, at least for the Marianas, and that any status, to be acceptable, must be closer to that of Commonwealth than to that of "free-association." Dorrance reports a "striking impression" from this conversation of a hardening attitude towards the other districts and suggests the district possibility that the Marianas delegation might go so far as to deliberately provoke an even wider split than presently exists in an effort to assure separate arrangements for themselves.

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3

COMMENT: All three telegrams give ample indication that the United States will have no bed of roses when it undertakes to negotiate the future of Micronesia.

**Attachments:**

1. Saipan's tel 220118Z Dec 70  
Saipan's tel 220119Z Dec 70
2. Saipan's tel 220120Z Dec 70
3. Saipan's tel 220121Z Dec 70

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