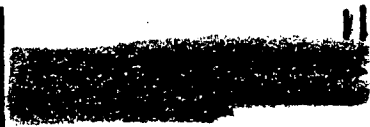


DEPT. DISTRIBUTION

ORIGIN/ACTION

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM



RS/R	REP	AF	ARA
1	2		
ETIR	NEA	CU	
INR	E	P	IO
6			
L	FBO	AID	
		S/PC	2
		4	
AGR	COM	FRB	INT
	10		7
LAB	TAR	TR	XMB
6			
AIR	ARMY	NAVY	OSD
5	3	5	34
USIA	NSA	CIA	
10	3	16	
		NSC	6

Original to be Filed in Reproduce Decentralized Files.

FILE DESIGNATION **R**

UNCLASSIFIED

A-11

HANDLING INDICATOR

NO. 10/5

TO : Department of State (IO/UNP, EA/ANZ, S/PC)

DEPT. PASS, WITH ENCLOSURE, TO: ~~Interior Dept. for Asst. Secretary Leesch and Office of Territories. Defense Dept. for OSD/ISA. WHITE HOUSE, USUN NEW YORK. CINCPAC FOR POLAD~~

NORFOLK

FROM : HICOMTERPACIS POLAD, SAIPAN

DATE: February 26, 1971

SUBJECT : TTPI - Marianas District "Secession"

REF : HICOMTERPACIS TEL 240654Z Feb 71

1. Enclosed is Marianas District Legislature President Vicente Santos' February 24 statement to the District Legislature concerning Marianas' secession from the TTPI. The statement was summarized in the referenced telegram.

DORRANCE *[Signature]*

Enclosure: Statement of District. Legislature President Santos

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY *[Signature]* DATE 25 MAR 1971

RDS or XDS EXT. DATE _____

TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____

FORSE EXISTING MARKINGS

UNCLASSIFIED RELEASABLE

EXEMPTIONS _____

SUGGESTED DISTRIBUTION



POST ROUTING

TO:	Action	Info.	Initials
AMB/PO			
DCM			
POL			
ECON			
CONS			
ADM			
AID			
USIS			
FILE			

Action Taken:

Date:

Initials:

FORM 10-54 DS-323

For Department Use Only

In Out

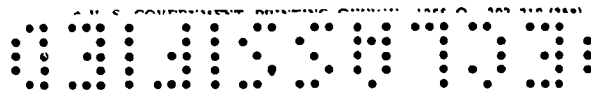
Drafted by: POLAD:JCDorrance:jcd

Drafting Date: 2/26/71

Phone No.:

Contents and Classification Approved by: POLAD:JCDorrance

Clearances:



05

418818

70

Enclosure 1
Saipan A-11

DECLASSIFIED

STATEMENT OF HONORABLE

VICENTE N. SANTOS

PRESIDENT

MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE

DELIVERED ON CLOSING

DAY OF THE FIFTH REGULAR SESSION

OF THE

3RD. MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE

FEBRUARY 24, 1971

SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS

DECLASSIFIED 05 418819

DECLASSIFIED

Today brings to an end the Fifth Regular Session of the 3rd. Mariana Islands District Legislature. Twenty (20) legislative days ago, on February 1, 1971, we opened this Session in a spirit of cooperation and coexistence, but recent developments here on Saipan clearly indicate that continued coexistence within the present political framework of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands is virtually impossible.

A few weeks ago, I stated to the press that I would have a statement on our future political status of major dimension - a statement of position that will provide the foundation of our future course of action. In making this statement of position of the future political status of the Mariana Islands District, it should be noted that this position has been fully discussed with the leadership of ^{this} district, including officials of the Municipalities, Village Commissioners, the District and the Marianas Delegation to the Congress of Micronesia. The path that is to be followed has been

DECLASSIFIED

05 418820

DECLASSIFIED

carefully selected, and efforts are underway to set up the machinery necessary to effectuate this chosen course of future political status for our people.

In order to understand the necessity of charting this political course, a little background on our plight and efforts during the past fifteen (15) to twenty (20) years to bring to the attention of the administering authority will be helpful.

During the Spanish Administration of the islands that now comprise the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, the people of the Marianas, including Guam, were ruled as one (1) unit internally. The other islands such as Yap, Palau, Truk, Ponape and the Marshalls were also administered as a separate unit internally. We all existed in the same ocean, but they did not bother us and we did not bother them. This arrangement continued through the German and Japanese Administration, and up until July, 1962, when the Department of the Interior assumed responsibility for the entire Trust Territory.

DECLASSIFIED

RELEASABLE

Between the years 1945 and 1962, this islands of Tinian, Rota, Saipan and the islands north of Saipan, except for a short period in 1951, were administered by the U. S. Department of Navy separately from the other districts of the Trust Territory. During this period, emphasis was placed on internal self-government and the Saipan and Tinian Municipal Governments assumed major responsibility for essential governmental functions, including but not limited to public works, health, education and community development.

Soon after the Department of the Interior assumed responsibility for the entire Trust Territory, the Congress of Micronesia was established by Secretarial Order 2882, and convened its First Regular Session on Saipan in July, 1965. For Fiscal Year 1965, the Saipan Municipal Government operated on a budget of nearly \$300,000.00. Unfortunately, rather than allowing the Congress of Micronesia ^{to} appropriate the funds authorized by the United States Congress for the operation of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Secretarial

RELEASABLE

DECLASSIFIED

Order 2882 took and reserved to the Congress of Micronesia all import and export taxes. The taking of these local taxes resulted in a reduction of the Saipan Municipal Government for Fiscal Year 1966 to less than \$50,000.00. Needless to say, this resulted in a severe blow to the people who have seen the activities of their government diminished to a prefunctory body that exists in name only.

For the people of the Marianas, the Congress of Micronesia is the body that is responsible for the curtailment of the fiscal responsibilities of THEIR government, whose leaders are elected by popular vote, and NOT APPOINTED.

During the past five (5) years, the Mariana Islands District has contributed as high as \$500,000.00 annually to the Congress of Micronesia through taxes, of which 50% is returned to the district for expenditure by the District Legislature, and 50% is retained by the Congress of Micronesia for their appropriation. This arrangement has not been particularly objectionable, even though the Mariana

DECLASSIFIED

05 418823

DECLASSIFIED

Islands District has only received a high of 16% in direct benefits from the Congress of Micronesia.

But the trend that has been set by the Congress of Micronesia, as evidenced by 1) reducing the export tax on copra that is mostly produced in the other districts, 2) exempting fuel taxes when used for outboard motor boats that are used almost exclusively in the other districts, but not in the Marianas, 3) the consideration of a hotel room tax when only the Marianas openly invites outside investment for hotel construction, and 4) the consideration of a \$3.00 head tax on tourist when the Marianas is actively encouraging tourism, clearly indicates that the economic, political and social development of the Marianas will be stagnated to a point of retrogression, and causes us grave concern.

This obvious trend cannot help but to arouse an already deeply imbedded desire to seek a realization of our political aspirations that were clearly expressed in plebiscites held in 1961, 1963 and 1969.

DECLASSIFIED

05 418824

DECLASSIFIED

While these plebiscites endorsed a variety of opinions on the future political status, but one thing was very clear in all of those plebiscites - the people of the Marianas are pro-American and want out of the trusteeship arrangement.

Hopefully, the Future Political Status Delegation of the Congress of Micronesia will recognize and give serious consideration to the expressed wishes of the Marianas. Fortunately, the Marianas Delegation to the Congress of Micronesia is unified in their representation of the expressed political aspirations and wishes of the people of the Marianas. We are confident that the views of the people will be made known to the Congress of Micronesia.

The people of the Mariana Islands District, comprised of the islands of Rota, Tinian, Saipan and the islands north of Saipan, are ready, willing and able to run their own affairs - but are being hampered in achieving this goal. In addition, the people of the Marianas are on record of approving seven (7) business applications

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

under the Foreign Business Investment Act, which is more than all the five (5) districts combined, which indicates that we are ready to join the 20th century.

In seeking interest potential investors in the Marianas, we are
constantly confronted with the reluctance on their part to invest
millions of dollars in an area whose political system is so unsettled.
This instability does not result from our desires, but from the
reluctance or indifference on the part of our administering authority
and the United Nations to recognize and comply with the clearly
expressed wishes of the people concerned. It is this dilemma that
makes us tired, and that motivates our desire to separate this district
from the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

In implementing this desire to secede from the Trust Territory,
we are not unmindful of problems involved in effecting this secession.
We are convinced that the Trusteeship arrangement has outlived its
usefulness and is incompatible with the fundamental and the

DECLASSIFIED 05 418826

DECLASSIFIED

progressive development of the Mariana Islands District. In reaching this position, it should be made very clear that our desire to separate from the other districts in the Trust Territory is to in no way reflect adversely upon the other district. To the contrary, by virtue of our geographical location and the necessity of ocean travel, we will keep open the channels of communication and mutual cooperation between our islands, but we want to run our own internal affairs.

The question perhaps comes to mind as to how will this secession be achieved and what future political status will the Marianas adopt?

First of all, another appeal will be made to officials in Washington, D.C. for assistance in effecting this withdrawal. In this connection, I am requesting the Legislature to support my request to send a delegation to Washington, D.C. for this and other purposes.

After these negotiations are completed, we intend to issue a "Proclamation of Secession" that will be much the same as the "Declaration of Independence" signed in 1776.

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

For many years now, we have been told that there can be no fragmentation of the Trust Territory as long as there is a trusteeship. Let the record show that we do not appose a reasonable time table for a Trust Territory - wide plebiscite to be monitored by United Nations, in order to terminate the trusteeship. But if a reasonable time table for a plebiscite is not set, then we take the position that we are not signatories to the Trusteeship Agreement and are not bound by its provisions. As a last resort, our opposition to this trusteeship can manifest itself in many different ways because our people are ready, willing and able to make the necessary sacrifices to obtain a stable and viable government in the Mariana Islands District. While, as I stated earlier, we do not condone violence but it must be realized that violence may result from an open confrontation over this issue.

Secondly, plans are already made and a constitution of and for the Mariana Islands District. This constitution will establish our own

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

government - the executive, legislative and judiciary branches, and
will be submitted to a duly constituted Constitutional Convention for
their consideration and adoption. We have been in the past and are
still pro-American and would sincerely hope that meaningful negotiations
with officials of the United States Government can be held in the
formulation of this new government. If, however, this is not possible,
then we would consider ourselves free agents to deal with and seek
assistance from any other government.

In conclusion, my fellow colleagues, I wish to state that the
thoughts and ideas expressed herein were not hastily arrived at,
but a great deal of time and effort were spent determining this
desired course of action. It should also be pointed out that we have
long advocated the essence of this declaration, and contrary to what
many might think, this movement will never die.

So, the serious and grave responsibility of providing for a stable
and viable governmental organization falls upon our generation, and it:

DECLASSIFIED

05 418829

DECLASSIFIED

is up to us to expend all of our energy to advise the people on the best method of achieving what has been so vividly expressed.

In closing, I wish to urge the Marianas Delegation to the Congress of Micronesia to vigorously support the expressed wishes of the people of the Mariana Islands District, and to make certain that the uniqueness of this area is understood and considered in its deliberations.

I wish to thank all of you for your patience and hard work during this Session. Between now and the next Regular Session in August, I shall keep you fully advised of all developments regarding this matter. I ask your cooperation in our endeavors and additionally ask that you stand ready to give your assistance as may be required.

Thank you

DECLASSIFIED

05 418830