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# Department of State

## TELEGRAM

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ACTION IO-04

INFO OCT-01 SAL-02 SS-20 EA-18 NSC-10 PC-01 INR-07 CIAE-00  
PRS-01 AID-12 RSR-01 RSC-01 IGA-01 L-02 /081 W  
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FM HICOMTERPACIS  
TO SECINTERIOR  
INFO SECSTATE  
SECDEFENSE  
WHITE HOUSE

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FROM HICOMTERPACIS POLAD, INTERIOR FOR ASST, SECRETARY LOESCH,  
STATE FOR IO/UNP AND S/PC, DEFENSE FOR OSD/ISA, WHITE HOUSE FOR  
MR LEVIN (NSC).

-----LIMDIS-----  
SUBJECT: TTPI POLITICAL STATUS AND THE PEACE CORPS  
1. STRONG RUMOR HAS REACHED HERE (NOT THROUGH PEACE CORPS) THAT  
CONSIDERATION BEING GIVEN IN WASHINGTON TO REDUCE SHARPLY OR  
TERMINATE PEACE CORPS PARTICIPATION IN EDUCATION AND OTHER TTPI  
PROGRAMS. NOT CLEAR WHAT REASONS ARE FOR THIS ACTION, ASSUMING  
INFORMATION CORRECT. THOUGH INFORMATION PRESENTLY CONFINED TO FEW  
PEOPLE HERE, THIS ALREADY INCLUDES SOME MEMBERS CONGRESS OF  
MICRONESIA.

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2. IMPLICATIONS: ANY ABRUPT TERMINATION OR REDUCTION PEACE CORPS  
CONTRIBUTION, ESPECIALLY IN EDUCATION PROGRAMS, WOULD BE EXTREMELY  
SERIOUS WITH RESPECT BUDGETARY, PROGRAMMING, AND STATUS QUESTION.  
COST OF REPLACING VOLUNTEERS WOULD BE ENORMOUS, AND RECRUITING  
PROBLEMS COULD BE OF CONSIDERABLE MAGNITUDE. MOST IMPORTANTLY,  
EDUCATION PROGRAMS (PARTICULARLY VITAL T.E.S.L.) IN TERRITORY WOULD  
SUFFER MAJOR DAMAGE WITH CONSEQUENT POLITICAL AND OTHER REPERCUSS  
IONS. SUMMING UP, WE DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHY CONSIDERATION MIGHT  
BE GIVEN TO CUTTING PEACE CORPS MOST EFFECTIVE AND VITAL CONTRIBU  
TION TO TERRITORY'S DEVELOPMENT.  
3. ASIDE FROM ABOVE CONSIDERATIONS, REACTION OF KEY MICRONESIANS TO

REVIEWED BY BHB Date 7/3/89  
FOI, EO or PA exemptions \_\_\_\_\_ TS at \_\_\_\_\_  
CLASSIFY as \_\_\_\_\_  
( ) DOWNGRADE TS to ( ) S or ( ) C, OADA  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR  
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ANY MAJOR CUT IN PEACE CORPS PROGRAMS WOULD BE EXPLOSIVE AND EXTREMELY COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE, ESPECIALLY AT THIS CRITICAL TIME WHEN MICRONESIAN LEADERSHIP ALREADY ALL TOO SUSPICIOUS OF OUR MOTIVES.

4. UNQUESTIONABLY PEACE CORPS PRESENCE (BUT MAINLY IN THE PAST) HAS CREATED SOME POLITICAL PROBLEMS FOR US. SOME DEMANDS AND FRUSTRATIONS HAVE EMERGED THAT MIGHT NOT OTHERWISE HAVE BEEN ARTICULATED UNTIL SOME TIME IN THE FUTURE. IN THAT SENSE, IN RECENT PAST, PEACE CORPS HAS BEEN A CATALYST WITH RESPECT EMERGE

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SOME OF OUR PRESENT PROBLEMS. BUT ALL ABOVE MAINLY RELATES TO INCIDENTS THAT ARE NOW HISTORY, AND IT IS EXTREMELY DOUBTFUL PEACE CORPS PRESENCE AT THIS TIME IS HAVING ANY APPRECIABLE NEGATIVE IMPACT ON OUTCOME OF STATUS QUESTION. (ALTHOUGH NATURALLY THERE WILL ALWAYS BE A FEW VOLUNTEERS WHO MAY BE UNDULY FREE WITH "POLITICAL ADVICE", THESE TEND BE VERY MUCH THE EXCEPTION AND SELDOM MUCH REAL INFLUENCE ON THOSE WHO COUNT. FURTHER, THE PEACE CORPS ON OCCASION HAS BEEN UNJUSTLY ATTACKED. ANTI-PEACE CORPS SYMPATHY WHICH EXISTS IN SOME CIRCLES HERE HAS STRONG RESEMBLANCE TO ATTITUDE AMONG THOSE IN U.S. WHO ATTRIBUTE CIA WITH OMNIPOTENCE, I.E. BELIEF THAT PEACE CORPS LIKE CIA IS CAPABLE OF ANYTHING AND RESPONSIBLE FOR EVERYTHING. IN POINT OF FACT, THERE HAVE BEEN INSTANCES, E.G. DURING RECENT TTPI TOUR OF A VIP, WHEN "TROUBLE MAKERS" HAVING NO TIE WITH PEACE CORPS CAUSED PROBLEMS AND WERE ASSUMED TO BE VOLUNTEERS. ALSO, ACTUAL INCIDENTS INVOLVING VOLUNTEERS, E.G. ONE MARIJUANA CASE, BLOWN UP OUT OF ALL PROPORTION TO REALITY.

5. IN ANY CASE, IT IS CLEAR NEGATIVE ASPECTS PEACE CORPS PRESENCE MORE THAN OFFSET BY POSITIVE INFLUENCES AND CONTRIBUTIONS. FURTHER, ANY IMAGINED OR REAL POLITICAL GAINS THAT MIGHT BE OBTAINED BY REDUCING OR REMOVING PEACE CORPS PRESENCE WOULD BE MORE THAN CANCELL

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OUT BY HIGHLY NEGATIVE REACTIONS AMONG MICRONESIANS IN AND OUT OF POLITICS. MICRONESIAN LEADERSHIP AT ALL LEVELS WELL AWARE U.S. CONCERNS RE PEACE CORPS INFLUENCE ON POLITICAL STATUS QUESTIONS AND WOULD VIEW SHARP REDUCTION OR REMOVAL AS HIGHLY CYNICAL AND

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SELF-SERVING ACTION. IN EFFECT, IT WOULD SUPPORT THEIR CONTENTION THAT U.S. HAS NO REAL INTEREST IN MICRONESIAN REQUIREMENTS. POSITION OF THOSE ARGUING FOR LOOSEST POSSIBLE OR NO TIES WITH U.S. WILL BE STRENGTHENED.

6. CONCLUSION. IF SERIOUS CONSIDERATION ACTION ALONG LINES P. 1 ONE IS IN FACT UNDERWAY, WE HOPE ADMINISTRATION HERE WILL HAVE OPPORTUNITY OFFER DETAILED INPUT ON ISSUES AND PROBLEMS INVOLVED SINCE ANY ACTION ALONG THESE LINE COULD SERIOUSLY AFFECT STATUS QUESTION, THERE ALSO IS MERIT TO POSTPONING FINAL DECISION UNTIL AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS HAS HAD OPPORTUNITY VISIT TTPI AND OFFER INDEPENDENT OBSERVATIONS. IF IN FACT DECISIONS ALREADY MADE ARE IRREVERSIBLE, THEN AT MINIMUM ANY PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT SHOULD BE AFTER FORTHCOMING SPECIAL SESSION CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA AND US TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL SESSION.

7. HICOM AND DIRECTOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS CONCUR IN THIS MESSAGE AND SERIOUSNESS OF MATTER IF RUMORS HAVE BASIS IN FACT.

8. MESSAGE PREPARED APR 29. DORRANCE.

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