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ACTION 10-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 PM-04 INR-08 SAL-02 SS-10 P-02 PRS-01

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FM HICOMTERPACIS SAIPANI
TO SECINTERIOR
INFO SECSTATE
SECDEFENSE
WHITE HOUSE
USUN NEW YORK
CINCPAC
CINCPACREP GUAM/ITPI

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED by BHB DATE 6/20/88
 RELEASE DECLASSIFY
 EXCISE DECLASSIFY in PART
 DELIV Non-responsive info.
FOI, EO or PA exemptions _____

TS authority to: _____
 CLASSIFY as _____, OADR
 DOWNGRADE TS to () S or () C, OADR

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FROM HICOMTERPACIS POLAD (TRUK), INTERIOR FOR ASST. SECRETARY LOESCH
AND OFFICE OF TERRITORIES, STATE FOR IO/UNP, EA/ANZ, S/PE, DEFENSE
FOR OSD/ISA, WHITE HOUSE FOR MR. LEVIN (NSC), CINCPAC FOR POLAD.
SUBJECT: CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA AND THE MARIANAS

1. CONGRESSIONAL SPECIAL SESSION NOW ONLY IN ITS THIRD DAY, AND IT
REMAINS TOO EARLY TO PREDICT WITH ANY PRECISION DIRECTIONS CONGRESS
MAY TAKE IN RESPONSE MARIANAS BOYCOTT. HOWEVER, THERE ARE SOME STRAWS
IN THE WIND WHICH PROVIDE HINTS TO CONGRESSIONAL ATTITUDES.

2. MARIANAS BOYCOTT OF SPECIAL SESSION SEEN BY MANY MEMBERS HERE
AS SOMETHING OF A "FINAL STRAW" FOLLOWING ON BURNING OF CONGRESSIONAL

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CHAMBERS LAST FEBRUARY. REACTIONS RANGE FROM OUTRAGE TO SINCERE
REGRET, BUT WITH MANY MEMBERS CONVINCED THIS LATEST DEVELOPMENT MAY
FORECLOSE POSSIBILITY ACHIEVING STATUS SETTLEMENT WHICH CAN EMBRACE
ALL SIX DISTRICTS. SOME, HOWEVER, DOUBT BOYCOTT ACTION HAS SUPPORT
MAJORITY MARIANAS POPULATION AND THUS WISH HEAD OFF ANY ACTIONS HERE
WHICH MIGHT PRECLUDE ANY REMAINING POSSIBILITIES OF A "RETURN TO THE
GOLD" OF MARIANAS. "HARDLINERS", HOWEVER, LIKELY TRY ALMOST ANYTHING
GIVEN THEIR "GOOD RIDDANCE" ATTITUDE AS AGAINST "SOFTLINERS"
WHO WISH AVOID PRECIPITATE ACTION AND PREFER CONCILIATORY APPROACH.
IN BACKGROUND THERE ARE TWO CONTRADICTORY VIEWS ON ADVANTAGES AND



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DISADVANTAGES OF ANY MEASURES WHICH MIGHT SPEED UP OR AT LEAST ASSURE SUCCESSFUL SEPARATION OF MARIANAS. SOME OF "HARDLINERS" SUSPECT THAT "GIVING" MARIANAS TO U.S. WOULD SATISFY OUR BASIC STRATEGIC REQUIREMENTS AND MAKE POSSIBLE INDEPENDENCE OR LOOSEST POSSIBLE FORM OF "FREE ASSOCIATION" FOR OTHER DISTRICTS. A FEW, PARTICULARLY SOME PALAUAN AND TRUKESI MEMBERS INCLINED TOWARD SEPARATISM AND INDEPENDENCE FOR THEIR RESPECTIVE DISTRICTS, SEE MARIANAS BREAKAWAY OR SEPARATE SETTLEMENT AS BEING A USEFUL PRECEDENT WITH RESPECT THEIR OWN GOALS. ON OTHER HAND, MANY OF MORE CAUTIOUS OF "SOFTLINE" MEMBERS ARE CONCERNED THAT MARIANAS SEPARATISM, IF NOT CONTAINED, WILL

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BE BUT A PRELUDE TO FRAGMENTATION OF MICRONESIA.

3. OPINIONS ARE SHIFTING, AND MEMBERS ARE WORKING TO CONVERT EACH OTHER TO THEIR RESPECTIVE VIEWS SO IT IS DANGEROUS AT THIS POINT TO LABEL MOST MEMBERS. FOR THE PRESENT TMETUCHLI (PALAU), NAKAYAMA (TRUK),

AND HARUO (TRUK) APPEAR TO BE AMONG THE KEY "HARDLINERS." AMONG THE "SOFTLINERS" ARE KABUA (MARSHALLS), SALII (PALAU), IESHI (PONAPE), MANGFELI (YAPI), HENRY (PONAPE), AND SILK (MARSHALLS).

4. ONE THING IS FAIRLY CERTAIN, CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA TRADITIONALLY SELDOM TAKES ANY ACTION UNLESS THERE IS CERTAINTY OF NEAR UNANIMOUS SUPPORT FOR THAT ACTION. THUS MOST OF MANUEVERING WILL BE OUTSIDE CHAMBERS, AND ANY RESULTING FORMAL ACTION LIKELY HAVE WIDE SUPPORT. AMONG MORE RADICAL MOVES APPARENTLY BEING CONTEMPLATED ARE MEASURES TO

STRIPE MARIANAS DELEGATION OF ITS CREDENTIALS, AND A RESOLUTION URGING U.S. AND U.N. TO RECOGNIZE SENTIMENT IN MARIANAS AND PROVIDE SEPARATE STATUS SETTLEMENT. FORTUNATELY SOFTLINERS, INCLUDING MOST OF CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP, OPPOSING MOVES ALONG THOSE LINES.

5. NEWS AS TO WHAT IS GOING ON IN MARIANAS AT THIS TIME IS EXTREMELY SPARSE HERE, BUT MANY MEMBERS POLITICAL STATUS COMMITTEE PRESENT ON TRUK ASSUME THAT ONE OF NEXT STEPS OF MARIANAS SEPARATISTS WILL BE TO BOYCOTT POLITICAL STATUS COMMITTEE. IT IS REASONED MARIANAS MEMBERS

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WILL REFUSE PARTICIPATE WITH COMMITTEE IN ITS TALKS WITH AMBASSADOR
WILLIAMS, AND WILL INSIST THAT ANY SETTLEMENT WHICH ATTEMPTS EMBRACE
ALL SIX DISTRICTS NOT BINDING ON MARIANAS. IN OTHER WORDS, AN
EFFORT TO FORCE SEPARATE NEGOTIATIONS WITH MARIANAS IS ANTICIPATED.
SENATOR SALTI TOLD ME YESTERDAY THAT THIS IS COURSE HE WOULD TAKE IF HE
WERE IN "MARIANAS SHOES."

6. AS TO THE MARIANAS, MNS AND OTHER SOURCES HAVE IT THAT BOYCOTT
DOES NOT HAVE UNIVERSAL SUPPORT BY ANY STRETCH OF IMAGINATION.
TERRITORIAL PARTY SUPPORTERS AND LEADERSHIP APPARENTLY OPPOSED AND
SENATOR BORJA IS UNDERSTOOD TO BE RECONSIDERING HIS PARTICIPATION
IN BOYCOTT. HE OPPOSED BOYCOTT IN FIRST INSTANCE AND WORD HAS
REACHED HERE THAT HE JOINED BOYCOTT ONLY AFTER THINLY VEILED THREATS
AGAINST HIS FAMILY WERE MADE. APPARENTLY THEIR "WELFARE WOULD BE
IN JEOPARDY" SHOULD BORJA BE AT THE SPECIAL SESSION IN TRUK.

7. TIED TO ABOVE ISSUES, IT IS CLEAR MANY AND PROBABLY MOST MEMBERS
CONGRESS NOW DETERMINED ESTABLISH NEW CONGRESSIONAL SITE IN SOME
DISTRICT OTHER THAN MARIANAS. TRUKI AND PONAPE AND LEADING CANDIDATES,
BUT IN ALL PROBABILITY SOME SORT OF JOINT COMMITTEE TO LOOK INTO
MATTER AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE SET UP DURING CURRENT SESSION.

MEMBERS WHO FAVOR TRANSFERRING CONGRESSIONAL SITE FOR MOST PART ALSO

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WISH TRANSFER TPI HEADQUARTERS OUT OF SAIPAN, BUT APPEAR RECOGNIZE
ACCOMPLISHMENT THAT GOAL WILL TAKE MORE TIME AND MONEY. MEANWHILE,
THEREPROBABLY WILL BE SERIOUS AND PERHAPS SUCCESSFUL MOVES TO
HAVE NEXT REGULAR SESSION, IN EARLY 1972, HELD IN PONAPE OR PALAU.

8. ALL ABOVE INTENDED TO PROVIDE SOME OF FLAVOR OF CURRENT POKER
PARTY AND BAR-ROOM TALK AMONG MEMBERS. AS CAUTIONED IN EARLIER
MESSAGES, MOST PREDICTABLE THING ABOUT THIS SESSION IS ITS
UNPREDICTABILITY. FOREGOING THOUGHTS OFFERED WITH THAT MAJOR
RESERVATION.

9. MESSAGE PREPARED MAY 7. DURRANCE.

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