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DEPARTMENT

CHARGE TO

Amembassy TOKYO ACTION:

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Micronesian Territorial Waters SUBJ:

Following was sent action HICOMTERPACIS SAIPAN (Info CINCPAC and CINCPAC REP GUAM) and is repeated to you FYI.

BEGIN MESSAGE.

Any Bill passed by Micronesian Congress purporting to extend territorial RPT territorial waters limits of Micronesia from 3 to 12 miles cannot be approved. US subscribes to 3 mile territorial sea limit.

2. As stated previous message of January 26, US is currently engaged in intensive international effort to secure broad agreement on outstanding oceans problems at 1973 Law of the Sea Conference. If agreement can be reached at this Conference it will help avoid unilateral extensions

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John A. Armitage

- McIntwre, Sutter DOD - Cmdr. Lynch DOD - Cmdr. L/UNA - Stowe COA-S/FW - Britkin (subst) and Blow Commerce/NOAA _Wilson (info) EA/J - Hay whida (subst) Interior - Loesch, Chapman

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of national jurisdiction by coastal states and possible international disputes and conflict resulting therefrom. LOS Conference will deal inter alia with question of breadth of territorial seas, fisheries, and seabed boundary and resources. We are attempting to reach international agreement on a 12 mile territorial sea at Conference provided freedom of transit through and over international straits is assured. As one of principal exponents of international agreement with respect to outstanding oceans problems, US cannot agree to area for which it responsible making unilateral claim. Further, Micronesians will benefit from successful conclusion 1973 LOS Conference if 12 mile territorial sea agreed. You have indicated that foreign fishing lies at root Micronesian Congress initiative. We therefore propose new Chapter 4 within Title 19 of Trust Territory Code

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along following lines so as to protect Micronesian

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BEGIN TEXT domestic fisheries interest: / Title 19, Chapter 4, of Trust Territory Code Fisheries Zone Contiguous to Territorial Waters of Trust Territory of Pacific Islands. Establishment; Fisheries Rights. is established a fisheries zone contiguous to territorial waters of Trust Territory. The Trust Territory/will exercise the same exclusive rights in respect to fisheries in zone as it has in its territorial waters, subject to continuation of traditional fishing by foreign states within this zone as may be recognized by United States. Section 132. Definition of Fisheries. As used in this Chapter, the term "fisheries" means taking, planting, or cultivation of fish, mollusks, crustaceans, or other forms of marine animal or plant life by any vessel or vessels; and term "fish" includes mollusks, crustaceans, and all other forms of marine animal or plant life.

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Section 133. Description of Boundaries. The fisheries zone has as its inner boundary outer limits of territorial waters and as its seaward boundary a line drawn so that each point on the line is nine nautical miles from nearest point in inner boundary. Section 134. Unlawful Acts; It shall be unlawful, except Penalties for Violations. as provided in Section 131, for any other than a vessel of/Trust Territory of Pacific Islands or of United States or under jurisdiction of United States to engage in fishing or fisheries in/contiguous zone. Violations of this section shall be subject to penalties prescribed in Section 107 of Chapter 3 of END TEXT Title 19.

4. Exclusive 9 mile contiguous fisheries zone, i.e., out to 12 miles from shore, is in our opinion in accord with customary international law. On that basis US

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established such a zone in October 1966. US has since 1966 negotiated bilateral agreements with Canada, Mexico, Japan, Poland and USSR which involve matters related to Traditional fishing traditional fisheries off US coasts. has thus been recognized with respect to US 12 mile fishing zone. We cannot assure greater rights for Micronesians that we claim for ourselves by denying even possibility of recognizing any traditional fishing. (See 21 USC 1091 et seq.) While we realize that the concept of QTE traditional fishing UNQTE may be unpopular, it should be noted that recognition of QTE traditional fishing UNQTE is not automatic; rather it requires first claim with respect thereto and then negotiation. We would plan to consult with Micronesians on any negotiations in this respect affecting TTPI. should inform us immediately if and when above Bill passes LOESCH SENDS. Micronesian Congress with any amendments noted . END MESSAGE

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