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VISIONS OF E.O. 12356 BY
HARRY DELASHMUTT, CHIEF
BRANCH OF SECURITY, DO
SIGNED:

To: OSN - Captain Crowe
From: TTPI POLAD - John C. Dorrance
Subject: TTPI - Strategy vis-a-vis the Marianas at the Palau Talks

Given the various commitments entered into by the Marianas representatives to the Status Committee (and vice versa), it now appears that the following is the best we can expect at the Palau talks with regard to the future status of the Marianas.

(a) A brief statement on Marianas aspirations in Salii's opening remarks -- along the lines of those at Hana.

(b) At the same time or elsewhere during the Palau talks a question will be posed to Ambassador Williams to the effect: "Is the U.S. willing to hold separate negotiations with the Marianas directed at a separate status for that District?"

(c) A more comprehensive statement on the Marianas' aspirations at the end of the talks, either by Senator Salii or by Senator Pangelinan. Surfacing of such a statement might be conditioned on prior agreements in principle on association for the other five districts.

Some concerns have been expressed over the complications in our negotiations that could arise unless we are on a "separate track" with the Marianas from the outset of the Palau talks.

(a) It has been suggested that the concessions we will be offering to the other districts may weaken the Marianas resolve for separate and permanent association. (b) It has been suggested that even if this does not happen, it will be difficult to retract, re the Marianas, concessions already made to the other districts prior to separate talks with the Marianas.

I am strongly inclined to discount both problems. If anything, the Marianas' resolve to have separate and permanent association is stronger than ever. They want no part of any arrangement which ties them to the other districts. As to the problem of their attempting to obtain concessions made to the other districts, they probably will attempt this in any event. Whether on a

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"separate track" or not, they will be in the conference room and will be aware of the concessions to the other districts. (However, on this point, both Pangelinan and Guerrero were fully aware at Hana and will be at Palau that our various statements are directed at the districts other than the Marianas. They do not expect and do not desire that the substance of Marianas status will be spoken to in the presence of the Status Committee. In their view, this can be done only within the context of separate talks with a Marianas status committee.)

Nevertheless, there are advantages to having it on record at the outset of the Palau talks that there are two separate status tracks. At best, this will be done by the Status Committee. We can then acknowledge their statement, state that we look forward to separate negotiations on the future of the Marianas, and note that our statements throughout the remainder of the Palau talks will relate only to the future of the five districts other than the Marianas.

If the Status Committee does not give us this opening at Palau, the same end can be achieved by referring (in our first statement following the Micronesian opening statement) to Senator Salii's remarks at Hana on the separate aspirations of the Marianas. We could make reference to those remarks, state that we believe the Marianas aspirations can be accommodated, suggest that it would be helpful to have from the Status Committee further information on the Marianas aspirations, and request the Committee's views on the mechanics of working out a status arrangement satisfactory to the Marianas. We could then state that, since the Marianas appear to desire a relationship quite different than that sought by the other districts, henceforth at Palau (unless otherwise stated) our statements will be directed at meeting the aspirations of the districts other than the Marianas.

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