

Status
Aug 22, 1972
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DISTAD PONAPE

UNCLASSIFIED

TRENT
STATUS LNO

SECSTATE
COMTWELVE SAN FRANCISCO
CINCPAC
JCS/SECDEF
WHITE HOUSE
CINCPACREP GUAM/TTPI

ROUTINE

FROM STATUS LNO

PASS TO DEPARTMENT INTERIOR FOR OSN AND DASTA
STATE FOR IO/UNP
COMTWELVE FOR AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS
DEFENSE FOR OSD/ISA
WHITE HOUSE FOR HOLDRIDGE (NSC)

SUBJECT: SENATOR IEHSI SPEAKS ON POLITICAL STATUS

IN EFFECTIVE, WELL-DELIVERED SPEECH IN SENATE TODAY AUG 22 SENATOR IEHSI (PONAPE) SAID HE WAS PROUD AND HIGHLY PLEASED AT RESULT OF WORK OF JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS AND EXPRESSED OPINION THAT COMMITTEE DESERVES QUOTE OUR FULL SUPPORT UNQUOTE.

STRESSING THAT "FUNDAMENTALS OF OUR RIGHTS AS MICRONESIANS HAVE BEEN SATISFIED" AND THAT UNDER TERMS OF DRAFT COMPACT MICRONESIA WOULD RETAIN CONTROL OVER ITS SOVEREIGNTY AND POLITICAL DESTINY, AND THAT RELATIONSHIP OF FREE ASSOCIATION WOULD BE UNILATERALY TERMINABLE BY EITHER PARTY, HE SAID COMPACT WOULD PROVIDE POLITICAL FUTURE WHICH ALL MICRONESIANS CAN LOOK FORWARD TO PROUDLY AND WITH A GREAT DEAL OF SATISFACTION.

IEHSI SAID HE WAS THEREFORE SURPRISED AND DISMAYED TO HEAR THAT SOME MEMBERS OF CONGRESS "HAVE BEEN MORE THAN JUSTIFIABLY CRITICAL OF THE DRAFT COMPACT." HE SAID HE TOO WAS NOT IN FULL SUPPORT OF EVERY PROVISION AND WAS "PARTICULARLY UNHAPPY" RE US LAND REQUIREMENTS IN MARSHALLS AND PALAU. NEVERTHELESS HE URGED RECOGNITION THAT IT TAKES TWO SIDES TO MAKE AN AGREEMENT AND THAT "TO GET SOMETHING WE WANT, WE MUST GIVE SOMETHING IN RETURN." HE SAID: "IF WE WANT US TO HANDLE OUR DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS WHICH WE ARE NOT CAPABLE OF DOING ON OUR OWN, AND IF WE WANT US TO SUPPORT US GENEROUSLY WITH ITS MONEY...WE HAVE TO BE PREPARED TO GIVE US WHAT IT WANTS IN RETURN: THE LAND WHICH IT REQUIRES FOR ITS MILITARY PURPOSES. AND LET NONE OF US MAKE THE MISTAKE BY THAT THE US WANTS OR NEEDS ANYTHING ELSE AT ALL IN MICRONESIA."

TO ADVOCATES OF INDEPENDENCE, IEHSI SAID COST OF INDEPENDENCE LXX NOW IS TOO HIGH AND HE NOTED THAT MICRONESIA COULD LATER OPT OUT OF ASSOCIATION. TO THOSE WANTING CLOSER ASSOCIATION WITH US HE OBSERVED

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(page 2)

THAT COMPACT IS NOT ENTERED LIGHTLY BUT WITH INTENTION THAT NEW RELATIONSHIP MAY BE ENDURING, LIKE A COMMONWEALTH, AND THAT UNDER COMACT MICRONESIANS WOULD ENJOY IMPORTANT PRIVILEGES OF US NATIONALS. IENSI CONCLUDED WITH PLEA FOR UNITY IN SUPPORT OF COMPACT.

AT CONCLUSION OF IENSI'S SPEECH, SENATOR LANWI (MARSHALLS) ROSE TO EXPRESS SUPPORT AND SAID HE HOPED STATEMENT "WILL CONVINCCE OUR FRIENDS IN THE MARSHALL ISLANDS."

REPRESENTATIVES OF FOUR DISTRICT LEGISLATURES ARE HERE IN PONAPE AND HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED AT CONGRESS SESSIONS. YAP DELEGATION EXPECTED TOMORROW, LEAVING ONLY MARIANAS ABSENT. THESE DISTRICT LEGISLATORS ARE EXPECTED TO BE ON HAND FOR OPEN DISCUSSION OF STATUS QUESTION SCHEDULED BY JOINT COMMITTEE FOR THURSDAY AFTERNOON AUG 24.

FULL TEXT OF IENSI'S SPEECH BEING AIRMAILED (LIKE PREVIOUS TEXTS) TO AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS, CSN AND IO/UNP. IF OTHER ADDRESSEES THIS SERIES OF MESSAGES WISE TEXTS SENT DIRECT, PLEASE ADVISE. OTHERWISE, IN ORDER TO FACILITATE ACQUISITION OF COPIES AND MAILING, TEXTS WILL CONTINUE BE FORWARDED ONLY TO ABOVE THREE ADDRESSEES UNLESS THERE APPEARS SPECIAL INTEREST.

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