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

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: STATUS QUESTION RESTS

SEN SALII TOLD ME YESTERDAY AUG 30 THAT DISCUSSION OF STATUS ISSUE IS NOW FINISHED FOR THIS CONGRESSIONAL SESSION, WHICH IS DUE TO ADJOURN SEPT 2. HE SAID DECISION HAS BEEN TAKEN THAT RELATED BILLS ON CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION AND OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL TRANSITION (SB 231, 232) WILL PASS SENATE BUT WILL NOT GET THROUGH HOUSE ON REASON OF LACK OF NECESSARY FUNDS FOR THEIR IMPLEMENTATION. SALII SAID HE THOUGHT THIS A GOOD SOLUTION. HE REMARKED THAT CONGRESS WOULD BE IN MUCH BETTER POSITION IN JANUARY TO CONSIDER WHOLE STATUS SUBJECT WHEN IT WILL PRESUMABLY HAVE BEFORE IT COMPLETED DRAFT COMPACT.

WHILE FORMAL DISCUSSION OF SUBJECT MAY HAVE COME TO RECESS, IT REMAINS PRIME TOPIC OF OFF-THE-FLOOR CONVERSATION AND IS INHERENT IN MUCH OF LEGISLATION BEFORE CONGRESS. AWARENESS ON PART OF CONGRESSMEN THAT SOME CHANGE OF STATUS IS APPROACHING SEEMS TO BE IMPLICIT IN EVIDENCES THIS SESSION OF CONGRESSIONAL MOOD OF INDEPENDENCE FROM, AT TIMES AMOUNTING TO DEFIANCE OF, TT ADMINISTRATION.

FAILURE OF MARSHALLS AND TRUK LEGISLATIVE DELEGATIONS TO SHOW UP FOR HEARINGS WOULD APPEAR TO HAVE IMPORT FOR ULTIMATE COURSE OF STATUS NEGOTIATIONS. EKPAP SILK TOLD ME, NOT VERY CONVINCINGLY, THAT SPEAKER OF MARSHALLS LEGISLATURE HAD BEEN HERE BUT COULDN'T TESTIFY BECAUSE HE DIDN'T SPEAK ENGLISH. EKPAP MAINTAINED THAT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPROPER FOR HIM (EKPAP) TO PROVIDE INTERPRETATION. LANWI APPEARS, MORE ~~KANWI~~ CONVINCINGLY, TO BE CONFUSED BY SITUATION, BUT THIS MAY BE MERE MANNERISM. HE HAS PLAYED THE CLOWN TO SUCH PUBLIC ACCLAIM AT SOCIAL EVENTS THAT IT IS NOT EASY TO BE CERTAIN OF HIS GENUINE ~~KANWI~~ CONVICTIONS. MARSHALLS HAVE LEFT REP ATAJI BALOS TO SPEAK FOR THEM (AUG 29) WHEN HE ~~REMARKED~~ ACCUSED US FOR OF HAVING PRIME INTEREST IN MICRONESIA'S STRATEGIC GEOGRAPHY FOR MILITARY BASES, AND SAID RATIFYING COMPACT WOULD BE SERIOUS MISTAKE (PREVIOUS TEL).

ABSENCE OF TRUKESE FROM HEARINGS MAY NOT BE SURPRISING TO THOSE WHO HAVE FOLLOWED THIS SUBJECT. ALTHOUGH ~~MUCH~~ RANKING TRUKESE

(more)

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VISITORS AT CONGRESS SESSIONS AND RELATED EVENTS ARE CONSPICUOUS, NONE ANSWERED STATUS COMMITTEE CALL TO TESTIFY. SEN AMARAICH IS A LONER, AT LEAST AS SEEN HERE, COURTEOUS, ABLE, BUT SO FAR NOT VERY APPROACHABLE ON SUBSTANCE OF STATUS ISSUE. VIEWS OF REP WILLIANDER FAVORING INDEPENDENCE FOR MICRONESIA ARE APPARENTLY WELL KNOWN. WHILE HIS MANNER REMAINS PLEASANT, THERE WAS BITTERNESS IN HIS ANTI-US DIATRIBE IN HOUSE AUG 28. REP ENDY DOIS IN CONVERSATION WITH ME AUG 29 SUPPORTED WILLIANDER'S POINTS, CASTIGATED US FOR MILITARY BASE PLANS, AND EXPRESSED STRONG OPPOSITION TO COMPACT.

DOIS ALSO BROUGHT UP A POINT THAT I BELIEVE HAS CAUSED SOME MISUNDERSTANDING IN CONSIDERATION OF COMPACT TEXT. HE CRITICIZED TITLE IV DRAFT, REMARKING THAT IT WAS USELESS TO BE HANDED STATEMENT ON FINANCIAL PROVISIONS WITH AMOUNT OF MONEY LEFT BLANK. HE SEEMED UNAWARE THAT TITLES IV, VI AND VIII, WHICH ARE INCLUDED IN JOINT COMMITTEE'S REPORT, ARE NOT YET ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ IN AGREED FORM. ALTHOUGH SALII EXPLAINED THIS IN HIS PRESENTATION, IT MAY BE THAT CONFUSION ON THIS POINT, DUE IN PART TO FORMAT OF COMMITTEE REPORT WHICH FAILS TO MAKE CLEAR THE TENTATIVE NATURE OF LAST THREE TITLES, IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS CONCERN. I QUERIED SALII ON THIS MATTER, AND HE REPLIED THAT THERE HAD INDEED BEEN MISUNDERSTANDING BUT HE THOUGHT IT WAS NOW STRAIGHTENED OUT.

WHILE THIS PARTICULAR ASPECT MAY HAVE BEEN CLARIFIED, I BELIEVE NEVERTHELESS THERE IS WIDE-SPREAD FEELING OF MALAISE AMONG CONGRESSMEN ABOUT COMPACT. PRINCIPAL STICKING POINTS THAT HAVE BECOME APPARENT ARE: 1) MILITARY BASES - NOT ONLY OPPOSITION TO US ACCESS TO LAND REQUIRED, BUT, EVEN STRONGER, CONCERN AS TO TYPE OF USE AND POSSIBLE HARMFUL OR EVEN PROVOCATIVE EFFECTS, TOGETHER

WITH IMPOTENCE OF MICRONESIA TO INFLUENCE SUCH USE; 2) RESTRICTIONS ON MICRONESIAN ACTION IN AREA OF INTERNATIONAL INTEREST; AND 3) ~~WEAKENING~~ WEAKENING OF MICRONESIA THROUGH SEPARATION OF MARIANAS (I HAVE HEARD NO FIGURE MENTIONED IN CONNECTION WITH FINANCE - EXCEPT FOR TMETUCHL'S ABORTED RESOLUTION RE MARIANAS.)

THERE IS ALSO WORRY ABOUT UNPREPAREDNESS OF MICRONESIAN PEOPLE IN GENERAL TO CAST MEANINGFUL VOTE IN PLEBISCITE ON COMPACT, AND AWARENESS OF NEED TO TACKLE BIG PROBLEM OF POLITICAL EDUCATION. SUCH EDUCATION, IT IS POINTED OUT, WILL HAVE TO BE DIRECTED PRINCIPALLY TOWARD TRADITIONAL LEARNERS, INCLUDING OFTEN ILLITERATE AND/OR OLDER VOTERS LIVING IN REMOTE AREAS WHO ARE OUT OF TOUCH WITH GENERAL NEWS DISSEMINATION. SOME DIRECT INDICATION THIS PROBLEM HAS COME TO ME FROM SEN IEHSI WHO COMMENTED THAT HIS FELLOW PONAPEAN, CONGRESSMAN IRIARTE (WHO KEEPS YOUNG INTERPRETER AT HIS SIDE IN HOUSE) WAS CLOSELY IN TOUCH WITH PONAPEAN TRADITIONAL AND INFLUENTIAL LEADERS AND REFLECTS THEIR RESERVATIONS AND LACK OF INFORMATION ON DEVELOPMENTS RE STATUS.

WITH EXCEPTION OF SALII'S ORIGINAL PRESENTATION OF JOINT COMMITTEE REPORT, MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE HAVE MADE NO STRONG PUBLIC STATEMENTS REGARDING IT, APPARENTLY FEELING THIS IS TIME TO LISTEN TO VIEWS OF OTHERS. THE CONCERNS OUTLINED ABOVE WILL CONSTITUTE IMPORTANT PART OF COMMITTEE'S BACKGROUND AT FORTHCOMING ROUND OF TALKS.

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