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ACTION INT-08

INFO OCT-01 IO-12 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 EA-11
SS-14 NSC-10 PRS-01 /067 W

021762

R 312305Z AUG 72
FM DISTAD PONAPE
TO SECSTATE
COMTWELVE SAN FRANCISCO
JCS/SECDEF
CINCPAC
WHITE HOUSE
CINCPACREP GUAM/TPI

DEPARTMENT OF STATE R/CDC/MR

REVIEWED by BHR DATE 4/28/88
 RELEASE DECLASSIFY
 EXCISE DECLASSIFY in PART
 DENY Non-responsive info.
FOI, EO or PA exemptions _____

UNCLAS
FROM STATUS LNO
PASS TO DEPARTMENT INTERIOR FOR OSN AND GASTA
STATE FOR IO/UNP
COMTWELVE FOR AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS
DEFENSE FOR OSD/ISA
WHITE HOUSE FOR HOLDRIDGE. (NSC)
SUBJECT: MARIANAS QUESTION
FURTHER DISCUSSION THIS SUBJECT TOOK PLACE IN SENATE YESTERDAY
AUG 31. IN SPEECH AT MORNING SESSION SEN TMETUHL (PALAU)
REVIEWED HIS EFFORTS BEGINNING AT TRUK SESSION TO GET CONGRESS

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TO DEAL WITH EXPRESSED WISHES OF MARIANAS AND CHASTIZED CONGRESS FOR
HAVING EVADED ISSUE. POINTING OUT THAT MICRONESIAN TRADITION OF
CONSENSUS IS IMPRACTICAL IN RESOLVING THIS ISSUE, TMETUHL OBSERVED
THAT, HAVING FAILED TO OBTAIN OFFICIAL RESPONSE FROM CONGRESS,
MARIANAS REPRESENTATIVES ON STATUS COMMITTEE HAD "QUITE
JUSTIFIABLY PROCEEDED TO INITIATE STEPS TO CHART THEIR OWN
COURSE." HE DECLARED THAT SOLUTION DOES NOT LIE IN COURTS,
BUT IS "A POLITICAL ISSUE, A GOV. EMOTIONAL QUESTION WHOSE
DETERMINATION ALL THE LEGAL BRIERS IN THE WORLD WILL NOT CHANGE."
BESIDES, HE SAID, THERE COULD BE NO DOUBT AS TO OUTCOME OF
LEGAL CASE WHICH WOULD BE DECIDED IN COURT "DOMINATED BY

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US JURISPRUDENCE AND CONTROLLED BY AMERICAN JUDGES." TMETUCL POINTED OUT THAT FAILURE TO FACE UP TO MARIANAS ISSUE HAD "IRONICALLY FACILITATED FUTURE WITHDRAWALS OF OTHER DISTRICTS." DISTRICT WOULD HAVE ONLY TO CONTACT AMERICAN DELEGATION AND REQUEST SEPARATE TALKS; MARIANAS HAVE ESTABLISHED THE PRECEDENT. TMETUCL SAID QUOTE BY OUR OFFICIAL SILENCE WE HAVE INDICATED TO THE UNITED STATES OUR TACIT APPROVAL OF THE SEPARATION OF THE MARIANAS, EVEN THOUGH THE US IS UNDOUBTEDLY AWARE OF OUR VEHEMENT, CONTRARY FEELINGS END QUOTE. TMETUCL CONCLUDED BY WISHING MARIANAS GODSPEED ON THEIR OWN "UNIQUE POLITICAL COURSE."

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IN LATE AFTERNOON RESUMED SESSION, SENATE HAD BEFORE IT REPORT OF WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE (COPIES FORWARDED) DETAILING DISCUSSION IN HEARINGS ON CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION BILL (SB 231), SUMMARIZED IN PREVIOUS MESSAGE THIS SERIES. TECHNICAL CHANGES RECOMMENDED BY COMMITTEE INCLUDED RAISING NUMBER OF DELEGATES FROM 28 TO 48 AND INCREASING APPROPRIATION FROM \$100,000 TO \$250,000. DEBATE ON SECOND READING OF BILL CENTERED ON MARIANAS QUESTION.

SEN BORJA (MARIANAS) EXPRESSED HIS DOUBTS AS TO LEGALITY OF MARIANAS PARTICIPATION IN CONVENTION, BUT SAID THEY WOULD LIKE TO BE NON-VOTING OBSERVERS. PANGELINAN (MARIANAS) OBSERVED THAT ISSUE IS NOT THAT OF POLITICAL STATUS BUT WHETHER OR NOT A PARTICIPATING DISTRICT WOULD BE BOUND BY ACT OF CONVENTION INTO A GOVERNMENT DEvised FOR OTHER DISTRICTS. WOULD PARTICIPATION BIND MARIANAS TO SOLUTION DIFFERENT FROM THAT DESIRED BY PEOPLE OF MARIANAS? HE THOUGHT NOT. SALII (PALAU) SAID LEGAL QUESTION IS INVOLVED; CONGRESS CANNOT EXCLUDE A DISTRICT; MARIANAS MUST BE INCLUDED.

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SEN LANWI (MARSHALLS) FELT MARIANAS SHOULD HAVE WHAT THEY WANT. BUT /MY HEART IS CRYING FOR THEM TO STAY WITH US." BORJA SAID BILL IS IMPORTANT BUT TO SUPPORT IT, MARIANAS

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WOULD HAVE TO BE SURE DISTRICT WILL NOT
BE BOUND BY FUTURE CONSTITUTION. IEHSI (PONAPE)
CONCLUDED SUBSTANTIVE PART OF DEBATE BY STATING VIEW
THAT WHETHER OR NOT MARIANAS SEND DELEGATES TO CONVENTION,
MARIANAS WOULD NOT BE BOUND TO CONSTITUTION;
"EVERYONE KNOWS US IS ALREADY NEGOTIATING WITH THEM."
BILL PASSED SECOND AND FINAL READING IN SENATE,
PANGELINAN VORETING NO; BORJA AND TMETUHL ABSTAINING.
NOTE APPRECIATE AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS' TIMELY MESSAGE.

EOT

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