

10  
7.9 Status  
Sept. 4  
[Date 9/4/72]

DISTAD PONAPE

UNCLASSIFIED

TRENT  
STATUS LNO

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

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

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)  
CANBERRA FOR POL  
SUBJECT: SALII'S SUMMARY AND KABUA'S VALEDICTORY

IN FINAL SENATE SESSION SEPT 2 SALII (PALAU) GAVE VENT TO FEELING OF FRUSTRATION AT CONGRESS' FAILURE TO PASS MAJOR LEGISLATION PROVIDING FOR CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION, OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL TRANSITION, AND COMMISSION ON NATIONAL UNITY (SB 231, 232, 233). HE CHARGED THAT CRITICAL DECISIONS HAD BEEN MADE BEHIND CLOSED DOORS AND CASTIGATED CONGRESS FOR SPENDING MONEY ON LESS IMPORTANT PROJECTS AND FAILING TO FULFILL RESPONSIBILITY TO PEOPLE.

SALII POINTED OUT THAT BEST THINKERS HAD SAID MICRONESIA'S BIGGEST PROBLEM IN FUTURE IS NATIONAL UNITY, AND ASKED: "WHEN THE COMMON OPPONENT, THE UNITED STATES, CEASES TO PLAY A ROLE, WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO OUR UNITY? WHAT WILL HOLD US TOGETHER?" COMMISSION ON NATIONAL UNITY WOULD HAVE HELPED IDENTIFY OUR PROBLEMS, HE DECLARED. OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL TRANSITION WAS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL TO ORDERLY TRANSFER AND SHOULD BE STARTED NOW, SALII SAID. OR, HE ASKED, "ARE WE GOING TO JUMP INTO OUR POLITICAL FUTURE TOTALLY UNPREPARED? WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO WITHOUT A GOVERNMENT, FOR WE CAN'T HAVE A GOVERNMENT WITHOUT A CONSTITUTION AND WE CAN'T HAVE A CONSTITUTION WITHOUT A CONVENTION."

SALII CONCLUDED: "I'LL THINK ABOUT THESE THINGS AS THE JOINT COMMITTEE WORKS ITS TEDIOUS WAY THROUGH THE MAZE OF YET ANOTHER ROUND OF NEGOTIATION...AND I WILL THINK ABOUT THEM DURING COMING YEARS, WHEN WE ARE STILL A TRUST TERRITORY DESPITE THE EFFORTS OF SOME OF US TO THE CONTRARY, BECAUSE OTHER OF US LOOKED THE WRONG WAY AT THIS SESSION." COPY OF SPEECH WILL BE SENT AS AVAILABLE.

LNO /mrd

(MORE)

DISTAD PONAPE

UNCLASSIFIED

TRENT  
STATUS LNO

Page 2

SENATE PRESIDENT AMATA KABUA (MARSHALLS) IN DIGNIFIED VALEDICTORY CLOSING SPECIAL SESSION, NOTED THAT GOAL OF POLITICAL STATUS DETERMINATION IS ELUSIVE AND ITS QUEST FRUSTRATING. HE URGED CONSIDERATION OF PRACTICALITIES AND REALITIES OF MICRONESIA IN MODERN WORLD AND POINTED TO NEED FOR PATIENCE IN AWAITING COMPLETED COMPACT BEFORE JUDGING IT. HE CALLED ON CONGRESSMEN TO DENY OUTSIDE PRESSURES THAT WOULD DIVIDE MICRONESIA AND POINTED OUT THAT THEY MUST NOW BEGIN CHALLENGING TASK OF EXPLAINING STATUS ISSUE TO PEOPLE, FIND THEIR DESIRES, AND THEN SEE IF CONGRESS IS CHARTING COURSE PROPERLY. HE SAID IN ESSENCE: "WE MUST BE PREPARED TO SEEK TERMINATION OF THE TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT AND EMERGE AS AN ISLAND NATION AWARE OF THE COMPLEXITIES OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY. OUR PROBLEMS SHOULD MAKE US SEEK INNOVATIVE THINKING. WE SHOULD CONSIDER SEEKING THE EXPERTISE, NOT ONLY OF THE ADMINISTERING POWER BUT ALSO OF OUR PACIFIC NEIGHBORS AND OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND AGENCIES."

TRENT

031394

