

Stulus

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51 - C
Nov. 25, 1972

TO: SECSTATE
COMTWELVE SAN FRANCISCO
JCS/SECDEF
CINCPAC
WHITE HOUSE
CINCPACREP GUAM/TTPI
USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

FROM STATUS LNO 51 e

PASS DEPARTMENT INTERIOR FOR OSN AND DASTA VIA INT/L
STATE FOR IO/UNP AND S/PC
COMTWELVE FOR AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS
DEFENSE FOR OSD/ISA
WHITE HOUSE FOR HOLDRIDGE (NSC)
USUN FOR STOWE
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA FOR POL

SUBJ: DISTADS COMMENT ON POLITICAL EDUCATION AND FUTURE STATUS

IN CONVERSATIONS WITH DISTRICT ADMINISTRATORS DURING THEIR CONFERENCE AT TT HDQTS NOV 20-24, I FOUND THEIR DIRECT INTEREST, INSOFAR AS FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS IS CONCERNED, CENTERED ON PROBLEM OF THEIR OWN ROLE AND WAYS AND MEANS OF GETTING INFORMATION TO THE PEOPLE RE SUBSTANCE AND MEANING OF NEGOTIATIONS AND POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES. THEY ARE WORRIED BY WHAT THEY SEE AS WIDE INFORMATION GAP.

WHILE AT CONFERENCE SESSION NOV 24 WHERE I WAS INVITED TO PRESENT CURRENT SITUATION REGARDING STATUS TALKS, THERE WAS NO ~~EXPLICIT~~ OVERT EXPRESSION OF OPINION AS TO SPECIFIC TYPES OR SOLUTION, REPS OF MARSHALLS, PONAPE AND TRUK HAD, IN INFORMAL CONVERSATION, AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, EXPRESSED VIEW THAT PEOPLE OF THEIR DISTRICTS DID NOT WANT INDEPENDENCE. IN MEETING, MARIANAS DISTAD ADA SUGGESTED THAT THERE MIGHT BE MERIT IN IDEA THAT ON A GIVEN DAY PEOPLE THROUGHOUT TT SHOULD EXPRESS VIEWS THROUGH PLEBISCITE AS TO TYPE OF GOVERNMENT THEY WANT. OFFICIAL NEGOTIATIONS COULD THEN PROCEED ON BASIS OF THESE VIEWS, ADA SUGGESTED. (COMMENT: WHILE IT IS A LITTLE LATE IN THE DAY FOR THIS SUGGESTION FROM ~~INFORMAL~~ THE MARIANAS, ~~AND EXPLICIT~~ IT IS SIMILAR TO COMMENTS I HAVE HEARD ELSEWHERE, SPECIFICALLY FROM DISTAD DEBRUM OF THE MARSHALLS.) IN THIS CONNECTION ADA OBSERVED THAT "POLITICIANS" IN TRUK EXPRESS THEIR OWN VIEWS BUT NOT THOSE OF THE PEOPLE. WHEREUPON TRUK DISTAD SABLAK ASKED WITH SOME AMUSEMENT, IN WHICH OTHERS JOINED, THAT THIS OBSERVATION BE STRUCK FROM THE RECORD.

DISTADS POINTED UP NEED FOR TRANSLATIONS IF SUBSTANCE OF ~~XXX~~ STATUS TALKS IS TO GET THROUGH TO WIDE SECTOR OF POPULACE. BUT THEY NOTED EXPENSE AND TIME INVOLVED, AND YAP DISTAD AGUIGUI, REFERRING TO JOINT PARTICIPATION BY COM AND USG, WONDERED WHO WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR FINANCING TRANSLATIONS.

DISTADS SHOWED SPIRITED INTEREST IN TRYING TO GET SOME PARTICIPATION BY EXECUTIVE BRANCH IN STATUS TALKS. PONAPE DISTAD FALCAM ASKED IF US HAD CONSIDERED HAVING DISTADS PARTICIPATE IN TALKS. HE COMMENTED THAT AT PRESENT, ONLY A FEW PEOPLE ARE "CARRYING THE BALL" WHICH MAKES FOR A "WEAK APPROACH" TO THE PROBLEM. POINTING OUT THAT "THINGS HAVE CHANGED", HE URGED THAT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO PARTICIPATION BY THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH. FALCAM WAS SUPPORTED BY AGUIGUI WHO SAID

(MORE)

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SITUATION NEEDS "CLARIFICATION."

DEPUTY DISTAD GILMAR OF MARSHALLS REMARKED THAT MEMBERS OF CONGRESS ARE IN FACT DIRECT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEOPLE. FALCAM VIGOROUSLY REJOINED: "I AM JUST AS RESPONSIBLE TO THE PEOPLE OF MY DISTRICT AS ITS CONGRESSMEN ARE." SABLAN BROUGHT DISCUSSION TO CLOSE BY STRESSING THAT SINCE DISTADS AS REPRESENTATIVES OF EXECUTIVE BRANCH WOULD CERTAINLY HAVE SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN FUTURE GOVERNMENT, THEY ARE DEEPLY INTERESTED IN ITS DEVELOPMENT.

PALAU DISTAD REMENGESAU HAD NO COMMENT TO OFFER. MARSHALLS DISTAD DEBRUM WAS ABSENT, FULFILLING DUTY, ALONG WITH DEPUTY HICCM COLEMAN, OF ATTENDING RITES FOR RONGELAP LEUKEMIA VICTIM.

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