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SECT 01 OF 69155

ACTION J5(02) ASD:ISA(10)  
DISTR CJCS(01) DJS(03) SJCS(03) J4(07) J3:(04) SECDEF(07) ASD:IL(04)  
ASD:PA(01) GC(01) SECDEF: DIA:  
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P 140615Z DEC 72 ZNZ-1  
FM HICOMTERPACIS SAIPAN  
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RUHNSAA/CINCPACREPGUAM/TTPI  
RUHJPBA/USNAVINSERVO GUAM  
RUEHBAC/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
RUWJAJA/COMTWELVE/SAN FRAN CALIFORNIA  
RUEHC/SECSTATE  
RUAOBQA/HQ USARBCO-MACHINATO/TTPI-LNO  
RUEKJCS/SEC DEF  
RUEKJCS/JCS  
RUENAAA/CNO  
RUENAAA/CHINFO  
RUHHBRA/CINCPACFLT  
RUHHABA/CINCPACAF  
RUHHRGA/CINCUSARPAC  
RUEHOT/USMISSION USUN NY  
RUHHFMA/CGFMPAC  
RUHHBRA/CUMCBPAC  
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*Opening Plans  
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AMEMBASSY CANBERRA/COMTWELVE/NOT ADDEES PASS INFO  
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PAGE 1

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TIPI NO. 256

(NOTE TO EDITORS AND NEWS DIRECTORS: THE FOLLOWING MNS RELEASE FOR THIS DATE WILL CONSIST OF ONLY ONE STORY. THAT STORY IS A LONG ONE, BUT IT IS AN IMPORTANT ONE. WE SUGGEST THAT YOU WILL WANT TO USE IT IN THIS ENTIRELY.)

(MARIANAS STATUS)

SAIPAN, DEC. 14, (MNS)---U.S. AND MARIANAS DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES MET WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, DECEMBER 13, FOR THEIR FIRST FACE TO FACE SESSION IN THE NEW POLITICAL STATUS NEGOTIATIONS. IN AN OPENING PLENARY SESSION, WHICH WAS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, MARIANAS STATUS COMMISSION CHAIRMAN EDWARD DLG. PANGELINAN AND U.S. AMBASSADOR FRANKLIN HAYDN WILLIAMS PRESENTED OPENING STATEMENTS FOR EACH OF THEIR DELEGATIONS IN THE HIGHLY FORMAL STYLE OF MEETING WHICH HAS BECOME COMMON FOR THE MICRONESIAN NEGOTIATIONS. THE STATEMENTS TO SOME EXTENT OUTLINED BASIC CONCERNS OF EACH SIDE, AND SET THE FRAMEWORK WITHIN WHICH THE CLOSED WORKING SESSIONS ON THURSDAY (DEC 14) WERE TO PROCEED.

CHAIRMAN PANGELINAN IN HIS REMARKS, REVIEWED SOME OF THE MAJOR CONSIDERATIONS WHICH WILL HAVE TO BE COVERED DURING THE COMING NEGOTIATIONS. CONCERNING THE FUTURE STATUS OF THE PRESENT MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT, HE SAID:

"ALTHOUGH THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS DESIRE TO ESTABLISH A CLOSE POLITICAL AFFILIATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES, THE EXACT FORM AND SUBSTANCE OF THAT RELATIONSHIP REMAINS TO BE DECIDED. THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION PLANS TO UNDERTAKE A THOROUGH ANALYSIS OF THE VARIOUS FORMS OF POLITICAL RELATIONSHIP WHICH MIGHT BE ESTABLISHED BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE MARIANAS.

IN PARTICULAR, WE PLAN TO EXAMINE THE UNINCORPORATED TERRITORY AND COMMONWEALTH ALTERNATIVES TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER EITHER OF THESE APPROACHES CAN BE ADAPTED TO THE POLITICAL ASPIRATIONS AND ECONOMIC GOALS OF THE MARIANAS. WE INTEND TO EXAMINE AND EXPLORE THE ACTUAL EXPERIENCE OF GUAM, AMERICAN SAMOA, AND PUERTO RICO TO SEE IF THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THOSE AREAS SUGGESTS ANY PROBLEMS OR DIFFICULTIES WHICH THE MARIANAS SHOULD AVOID. BASED UPON SUCH AN EXAMINATION, OUR COMMISSION MIGHT WELL CONCLUDE THAT NEITHER THE TERRITORY NOR COMMONWEALTH FORMAT IS ACCEPTABLE. IT MAY WELL BE NECESSARY TO DEVELOP A TOTALLY NEW POLITICAL STATUS FOR THE MARIANAS."

THE CHAIRMAN CALLED UPON THE U.S. DELEGATION TO COOPERATE WITH

PAGE 2

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THEM IN THE TASK OF SEARCHING FOR THE POLITICAL STATUS BEST SUITED TO THE NEEDS AND ASPIRATIONS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS. HE THEN OUTLINED THE MOST IMPORTANT MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED THOROUGHLY DURING THE FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS. LAND IS ONE OF THEM.

"ONCE A POLITICAL FORMAT OF CLOSE ASSOCIATION HAS BEEN DEVELOPED FOR THE MARIANA ISLANDS," PANGELINAN DECLARED, "IT WOULD THEN BE APPROPRIATE FOR ALL MILITARY RETENTION AND PUBLIC LAND TO BE TURNED OVER TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE MARIANA ISLANDS." THIS WILL PROPERLY RECOGNIZE, HE CONTNUED, "THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANA ISLANDS OVER THEIR LAND. THEREAFTER, NEGOTIATIONS REGARDING ANY DESIRED MILITARY AND PUBLIC USES OF THIS LAND COULD BE CONDUCTED WITH THE SOVEREIGN GOVERNMENTAL BODY OF THE MARIANAS. THIS CERTAINLY WOULD, IN OUR VIEW, BE THE BEST WAY OF HANDLING THE LAND TRANSITION PROBLEMS," PANGELINAN SAID. HE ADDED THAT "LAND--ITS USE, SALE, AND DEVELOPMENT--IS PROBABLY THE MOST IMPORTANT AND DIFFICULT PROBLEM WE FACE IN THE FUTURE."

ANOTHER BROAD AREA TO BE CONSIDERED DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS RELATES TO ECONOMICS AND FINANCE. CHAIRMAN PANGELINAN IDENTIFIED A FEW KEY QUESTINS INVOLVING THE TWO: "FIRST," PANGELINAN SAID, "THERE IS THE QUESTION OF PROVIDING FUNDS FOR SUPPORTING THE INSTITUTIONS OF SELF-GOVERNMENT IN THE MARIANAS." HE CONTINUED THAT "THE MARIANAS RECOGNIZES THAT THE PUBLIC MONIES MADE AVAILABLE BY THE UNITED STATES DURING THE PERIOD OF ITS TRUSTEESHIP HAVE BEEN PROVIDED THROUGH VARIOUS GRANT PROGRAMS AUTHORIZED UNDER THE UNITED STATES LAWS. WE WILL WANT TO EXPLORE THE CONTINUATION OF SUCH PROGRAMS AT THE SAME TIME THAT WE STRIVE TO MAKE THEM MORE

RESPONSIBLE TO THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS AS EXPRESSED THROUGH THEIR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES."

HE ADDED THAT, "ADDITIONAL FUNDS ARE CLEARLY NEEDED FOR THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE MARIANAS," PANGELINAN SAID. "AS NUMEROUS STUDIES HAVE MADE CLEAR, IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO DEVELOPE SMALL INDUSTRIES IN THE MARIANAS WHICH WILL FURTHER THE RATIONAL EXPLOITATION OF OUR RESOURCES CONSISTENT WITH PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE ECONOMIC SOVEREIGNTY OF ITS PEOPLE." IN LIKE FASHION, HE STATED, "WE ALSO NEED TO DISCUSS THE CAPABILITIES OF THE MARIANAS TO RAISE MONEY THROUGH TAXATION ON AN UNRESTRICTED BASIS." AND A FINAL POINT IN THE AREA OF ECONOMICS AND FINANCE RELATES TO THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR FOREIGN INVESTORS IN THE MARIANAS UNDER A NEW POLITICAL STATUS. CONSIDERABLE INTERESTS HAVE BEEN EXPRESSED BY FOREIGN BUSINESS CONCERNS IN BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES IN THE MARIANAS." PANGELINAN THEN DECLARED THAT THE PEOPLE OF THE MAKIANAS "WANT TO BE ABLE TO EXPLORE AND PROFIT FROM THE

PAGE 3

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THESE POSSIBILITIES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, ALWAYS KEEPING IN MIND  
THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIOLOGICAL IMPACT ON THE MARIANAS."

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PAGE 4

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