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ACTION INT-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 IO-12 SS-14 PM-08 L-03 H-02 P-03 PRS-01

INR-09 EB-11 /083 W

022414

P 150915Z DEC 52
FM CINCPACREP GUAM/TTPI
TO SECSTATE
COMTWELVE SAN FRANCISCO
JCS/SECDEF
CINCPAC
WHITE HOUSE
USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

DECLASSIFIED/RELEASED
ON JUL 10 1985 UNDER PRO-
VISIONS OF E.O. 12958 BY
ENCS D.K. DOLAN, USN
SPECIAL ASSISTANT, OMSN

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FROM STATUS LNO
PASS TO DEPT INTERIOR FOR OSN AND DASTA VIA INT/L
STATE FOR IO/UNP AND S/PC
COMTWELVE FOR AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS
DEFENSE FOR USD/ISA
WHITE HOUSE FOR HOLDRIDGE (NSC)
USUN FOR STUWE
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA FOR POL
SUBJECT: MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS NEGOTIATIONS, FIRST ROUND,

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SUMMARY OF EVENTS

1. U. S. DELEGATION HEADED BY AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS COMPLETED YESTERDAY DEC. 14 TWO DAYS OF DISCUSSION WITH MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION FORMALLY INAUGURATING STATUS TALKS. AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS' REMARKS AT OPENING CEREMONIES AND OPEN PLENARY WILL BE DISTRIBUTED UPON DELEGATION'S RETURN. TEXT OF COMMUNIQUE BY SEPTEL.
2. PUBLIC MEETINGS CHARACTERIZED BY WARM SENTIMENTS ON BOTH SIDES AND APPARENTLY WELL RECEIVED PUBLICLY. CLOSED WORKING SESSION YESTERDAY AFTERNOON CONCENTRATED PRIMARILY ON PROCEDURAL MATTERS AND ANSWERING CLARIFYING QUESTIONS ON SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES FROM MARIANAS DELEGATION THAT INCLUDED POLITICAL STATUS, LAND, FINANCE

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AND TRANSITION, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING, AND AGREEMENT ON A JOINT COMMUNIQUE.

3. THE U. S. DELEGATION POINTED OUT THE NEED FOR ARRIVING EARLY AT SOME

COMMON GUIDELINES AND UNDERSTANDINGS WHICH WOULD GOVERN THE NEGOTIATIONS. THE U. S. DELEGATION'S ROLE AND AUTHORITY WAS CLEARLY ESTABLISHED AND A REQUEST WAS MADE FOR A SIMILAR COMMITMENT AND DEFINITION OF THE ROLE AND AUTHORITY OF THE MARIANAS STATUS COMMISSION

(MSC). UPON RECEIVING THIS REQUEST THE 15-MAN MSC ASKED FOR A RECESS. OBVIOUSLY, THEY WERE NOT PREPARED TO ANSWER THIS QUESTION WHEN FIRST

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ASKED. AFTER A 45-MINUTE RECESS THEY ANSWERED THAT IN THE FUTURE WHEN THE MSC AGREED BY MAJORITY ON ANY POINT THE AGREEING MEMBERS WOULD BE COMMITTED TO SUPPORT THE ISSUE BEFORE THEIR LEGISLATURE AND THE PEOPLE.

4. MEETING THEN TURNED TO OTHER PROCEDURAL MATTERS DESIGNED TO FACILITATE THE MECHANICS OF FUTURE NEGOTIATING SESSIONS. THESE INCLUDED: AGREEMENT THAT ALL FUTURE MEETINGS WOULD BE HELD IN THE MARIANAS OR GUAM, PLENARY SESSIONS WOULD BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, FINAL JOINT COMMUNIQUE WOULD BE ISSUED AT THE CLOSE OF ALL SESSIONS, PARALLEL

SUBCOMMITTEES WOULD BE FORMED TO EXPEDITE EFFORTS AND FORMULATE POSITIONS TO PRESENT TO THE FULL DELEGATIONS AT FUTURE SESSIONS, AND THE DATE FOR THE NEXT SESSION WOULD BE IN THE SPRING OF 1973.

5. FOLLOWING AGREEMENT ON PROCEDURES, THE U. S. DELEGATION RESPONDED IN PART TO A LONG LIST OF QUESTIONS PRESENTED BY THE MSC. (RECORD WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR WASHINGTON DISTRIBUTION UPON RETURN OF DELEGATION.)

6. HAVING ESTABLISHED THAT FUTURE MEETINGS WOULD BE HELD IN THE MARIANAS, WITH THE NEXT MEETING TO BE IN THE SPRING OF 1973, A RECESS WAS CALLED TO ALLOW JOINT AGREEMENT ON THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE WHICH HAD BEEN DRAFTED BY THE U. S. DELEGATION.

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7. WHAT WAS EXPECTED TO BE ROUTINE DEVELOPED INTO BASIC ISSUE. ONE MSC MEMBER (PALACIOS) IN MARIANAS CAUCUS OBJECTED TO THE WORD

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"PERMANENT" IN THE DESCRIPTION OF THE FUTURE RELATIONSHIP. THE MSC HAD A LONG DEBATE DURING THE RECESS WHICH CULMINATED IN THEIR CHAIRMAN MEETING WITH THE U. S. DELEGATION AND REQUESTING THAT THE WORD "PERMANENT" BE CHANGED TO "LASTING". HE REQUESTED THIS COMPROMISE IN ORDER TO AVOID A MINORITY REPORT AND BAD PRESS WHICH WOULD OVERSHADOW ALL THAT HAD BEEN ACCOMPLISHED HARMONIOUSLY OVER THE PAST TWO DAYS. 8. IT WAS POINTED OUT TO THEIR CHAIRMEN THAT THIS WAS A BASIC ISSUE AND THAT THIS WAS A FIRST TEST ON THE ROLE AND AUTHORITY OF THE MSC. A SLIGHTLY MODIFIED PHRASING WAS WORKED UP WHICH STILL RETAINED THE WORD "PERMANENT", HOWEVER, AND GIVEN TO THE CHAIRMAN. AFTER A RELATIVELY SHORT INTERVAL THE MSC AGREED TO THE REVISED COMMUNIQUE THEREBY DEFLATING A POTENTIALLY SERIOUS SPLIT, AND THE FIRST SESSION WAS CORDIALLY CLOSED.

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