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CINCPAC
CINCPACREPGUAM/TTPI
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AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
COMTWELVE/SAN FRAN CALIFORNIA
SECSTATE
HQ USARBCO-MACHINATO/TTPI-LNO
SEC DEF
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CHINFO
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Interview w/
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USMISSION USUN NY
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UNCLAS (SECTION I OF II)
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA/COMTWELVE/NOT ADDEES PASS INFO
CANBERRA FOR POL SECTION
COMTWELVE FOR AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS
SECSTATE PASS TO DEPT INT/SEC INTERIOR/DASTA OSN
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TTPI NO. 269

(MARINAS STATUS)

SAIPAN DEC 22 (MNS)---MARIANAS SENATOR EDWARD PANGELINAN HAS OUTLINED SOME OF THE MOST CRUCIAL TASKS AND GOALS WHICH FACE THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION. IN A LENGTHY INTERVIEW, MUCH OF WHICH WAS OFF THE RECORD AND FOR BACKGROUND PURPOSES,

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PANGELINAN TALKED ON THURSDAY (DEC. 21) ABOUT THE WORK WHICH LIES AHEAD FOR THE COMMISSION HE HEADS AS CHAIRMAN.

OF THE BASIC STATUS ISSUE, THE CHAIRMAN SAID THAT THREE PRINCIPAL ALTERNATIVES ARE BEING STUDIED TO DETERMINE WHICH WILL BEST SUIT THE INTERESTS AND ASPIRATIONS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS. THOSE THREE ARE COMMONWEALTH STATUS, THE STATUS OF UNINCORPORATED TERRITORY, AND THE STATUS OF INCORPORATED TERRITORY. OR, HE SAID, THERE IS ALWAYS THE POSSIBILITY THAT THERE WOULD BE A "UNIQUE TERRITORIAL STATUS-- A KIND OF STATUS THAT THE LEGAL CONSULTANTS MAY COME UP WITH." EVERY ALTERNATIVE IS BEING STUDIED CAUTIOUSLY, HE SAID.

BY WAY OF EXPLANATION, AN INCORPORATED TERRITORY IS AN AREA WHICH THE U.S. CONGRESS HAS "INCORPORATED" INTO THE UNITED STATES BY MAKING ALL PROVISIONS OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION APPLICABLE TO IT. AN UNINCORPORATED TERRITORY IS ONE TO WHICH THE CONSTITUTION HAS NOT BEEN EXPRESSLY AND FULLY EXTENDED.

PANGELINAN SAID THAT WITH THE BIG JOB AHEAD, CONSULTANTS HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED TO DO SOME OF THE MAJOR RESEARCH IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE COMMISSION'S THREE STANDING COMMITTEES.

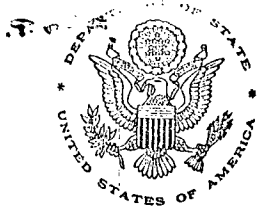
THE CHAIRMAN ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT ONE OF THE MOST CRUCIAL AND

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COMPLICATED PROBLEMS THE COMMISSION WILL DEAL WITH IS THE SUBJECT OF LAND MATTERS. HE SPOKE AT LENGTH ABOUT LAND LEASES AND LAND USE AND REPEATED THE COMMISSION'S WISH THAT DURING THE PROCESS OF THE STATUS NEGOTIATIONS THE COMMISSION BE CONSULTED ON ANY LAND LEASES. HE POINTED TO THE LAND POWERS THE ADMINISTRATION HAS, SAYING THAT THIS "WEAKENS OUR POSITION AND IT DOES TAKE AWAY SOME OF THE MAJOR INTEREST AND CONCERNS WE HAVE OVER LAND MATTERS." ACCORDING TO PANGELINAN, AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS, HEAD OF THE U.S.

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DELEGATION TO THE STATUS TALKS, HAS TAKEN THE LAND ISSUE UNDER ADVISEMENT.

"ONE OF THE MOST FRUSTRATING MATTERS WE HAVE HERE IS THE VERY SHAKEY POSITION OF THE LAND TITLES, PANGELINAN SAID. "WE WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT BEFORE WE JUMP INTO THE NEW STATUS, WE HOPE WE WILL BE ABLE TO RESOLVE SOME OF THIS LAND PROBLEM SO THE PEOPLE WILL HAVE COMPLETE TITLES OVER THEIR PROPERTY."

ON THE SUBJECT OF MILITARY LAND REQUIREMENTS, PANGELINAN INDICATED A DESIRE TO AVOID SOME OF THE PROBLEMS THAT ARE EVIDENT IN OTHER AREAS. CITING GUAM AS AN EXAMPLE, HE POINTED OUT THAT THERE ARE BEACHES ON THAT ISLAND WHICH ARE OPEN TO MILITARY PERSONNEL ONLY, AND THE CIVILIAN COMMUNITY IS LEFT OUT.

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HE EMPHASIZED THE DESIRE OF THE COMMISSION THAT THE PEOPLE SHOULD BE INVOLVED IN WHATEVER DEVELOPMENT THERE IS IN THE AREA, AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THERE WOULD BE NO LIMITATION ON MILITARY FACILITIES TO THE CIVILIAN POPULATION. HE ALSO SAID, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT THE MILITARY SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO BUY PRODUCE LOCALLY TO AID THE ECONOMY OF THE MARIANAS.

ON THE QUESTION OF U.S. CITIZENSHIP, PANGELINAN SAID THAT THIS AREA CONSTITUTES ONE OF THE MAJOR PROBLEMS, "BECAUSE AT THE PRESENT TIME, WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER EVERYONE IN THE MARIANAS IS ENTHUSED ABOUT BECOMING AMERICAN CITIZENS. WE WILL EXPLORE ALL THE VARIOUS PROBLEMS THAT ARE INVOLVED HERE," HE SAID. ALSO, HE NOTED, THERE IS THE POSSIBILITY THAT THERE MIGHT BE SOME LIMIT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF U.S. CITIZENS WHO LIVE IN THE NEW TERRITORY.

CONSULTANTS WORKING ON THESE DETAILED MATTERS INCLUDE HOWARD WILLENS OF THE WASHINGTON LAW FIRM OF WILMER, CUTLER AND PICKERING; JAMES LEONARD, OF JAMES R. LEONARD ASSOCIATES, INCORPORATED, ECONOMIC CONSULTANTS; THE COMMISSION'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, JAMES E. WHITE; AND JOSEPH SCREEN.
(NOTE TO EDITORS: THE FOLLOWING STORY IS BASED ON A CONGRESS NEWS RELEASE FROM PALAU)

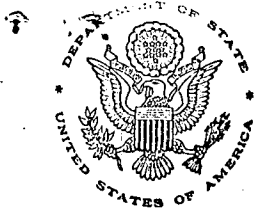
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(WILLIAMS VISITS PALAU)

SAIPAN DEC 22 (MNS)---U.S. AMBASSADOR FRANKLIN HAYDN

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WILLIAMS, HEAD OF THE AMERICAN DELEGATION TO THE MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS, LEFT PALAU THURSDAY (DEC 21) AFTER CONFERRING WITH THE TRADITIONAL AND ELECTED PALAUAN LEADERS CONCERNING THE FUTURE STATUS NEGOTIATIONS.

THE AMBASSADOR, WHO ARRIVED IN PALAU TUESDAY, DEC. 19, WAS ACCOMPANIED BY U.S. NAVY CAPTAIN WILLIAM J. CROWE, JR., A MEMBER OF THE U.S. DELEGATION, AND BY SENATOR LAZARUS SALII, CHAIRMAN OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS.

A NEWS RELEASE ON THE VISIT FROM THE PALAU CONGRESS DELEGATION QUOTES "RELIABLE SOURCES" AS SAYING THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE AMBASSADOR'S TRIP WAS "TO FIND THE REASONS BEHIND THE NOVEMBER 20TH JOINT DECLARATION BY THE 50 ELECTED AND TRADITIONAL LEADERS OF PALAU AGAINST THE USE OF LANDS IN PALAU BY THE U.S. MILITARY."

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