



Department of State

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TELEGRAM

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ACTION INT-08

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 L-03 EA-11 SS-14 JUSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
INR-09 NSAE-00 P-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 PM-08 RSR-01
/085 W

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P 261745Z JAN 73
FM HICOMTERPACIS SAIPAN
TO SECSTATE
COMTWELVE SAN FRANCISCO
JCS/SECDEF
WHITE HOUSE
CINCPAC
CINCPACREP GUAM/TTP1
USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

050313

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED by BTTB DATE 4/28/88
 RELEASE DECLASSIFY
 EXCISE DECLASSIFY in PART
 DENY Non-responsive info.
FOI, EO or PA exemptions _____

TS authority to:
 CLASSIFY as _____, OADR
 DOWNGRADE TS to () S or () C, OADR

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FROM STATUS LNO 19

PASS TO DEPARTMENT INTERIOR FOR OSN (ACTION) AND DASTA (INFO)
STATE FOR EA, IO/UNP, L/UNA
COMTWELVE FOR AMB WILLIAMS
DEFENSE FOR OSD/ISA
WHITE HOUSE FOR HOLDRIDGE (NSC)
JUSTICE FOR OLC (MARCUSE)
CANBERRA FOR POL

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SUBJECT: CONGRESSMAN O'SONIS SPEAKS ON STATUS

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF SPEECH IN HOUSE YESTERDAY JAN 25 BY
FRESHMAN CONGRESSMAN MACHIME O'SONIS OF TRUK EXPRESSING OPPOSITION
TO U.S. CONCURRENCE IN MARIANAS SEPARATISM, ASSERTING THAT CONGRESS
HAS BEEN BYPASSED, AND THAT HE INTENDS TO BRING MATTER TO ATTENTION
OF UN VISION MISSION. RELEVANT MARIANAS DOCUMENTATION BEING
MADE DIRECTLY AVAILABLE TO O'SONIS.

"MR. SPEAKER, AND MY FELLOW COLLEAGUES IN THE HOUSE:

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"TODAY I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS MYSELF TO ONE ASPECT OF THE ISSUE OF MICRONESIA'S FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS.

"I HAVE NOT BEEN A PARTY TO THE PAST AND CONTINUING NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN OUR JOINT COMMITTEE OF THE CONGRESS AND THE U.S. DELEGATION. I WOULD, HOWEVER, LIKE TO EXPRESS MY OPINION BOTH AS A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE AND ALSO AS A CITIZEN OF MICRONESIA WHO FORMERLY FOLLOWED THE NEGOTIATIONS AT A DISTANCE, AS DO MANY OF OUR PEOPLE.

"WHAT CONCERNS ME, MR. SPEAKER, IS THAT THERE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN A BASIC SHIFT IN U.S. POLICY--ONE THAT COULD PROVE VERY HARMFUL TO OUR FUTURE POLITICAL ASPIRATIONS. WE ARE ALL, OF COURSE, AWARE THAT THE MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT WISHES TO FOLLOW A COURSE THAT MAY BE DIFFERENT FROM THE FREE ASSOCIATION CONCEPT, WHICH IS THE PRIMARY

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GOAL OF THE CONGRESS. WE BEAR THEM NO ILL FEELING FOR THIS. IT IS THEIR RIGHT, AND I THINK WE SHOULD SUPPORT WHATEVER KIND OF FUTURE GOVERNMENT OR ASSOCIATION THEY WANT. THIS IS WHAT LEADS ME TO THE MAIN POINT OF THESE REMARKS.

"DURING THE FIRST 24 YEARS OF AMERICA'S ADMINISTRATION OF MICRONESIA, OUR ISLANDS WERE BOTH LEGALLY DESCRIBED AND, IN FACT, FULLY ADMINISTERED AS A SINGLE GEOGRAPHICAL AND POLITICAL UNIT. IN THE 25TH YEAR, HOWEVER, AMBASSADOR F. HAYDN WILLIAMS, AS PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF PRESIDENT NIXON, ACKNOWLEDGED THAT IF THE MARIANAS WISHED TO PROCEED ON THEIR OWN COURSE, THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD ACCOMMODATE THEM.

"FIRST, MR. SPEAKER, IF THE U.S. DELEGATION WANTED TO TALK ABOUT SEPARATE STATUS FOR THE MARIANAS, I THINK IT PROPERLY SHOULD HAVE BEEN DONE WITH THE JOINT COMMITTEE. IN BYPASSING THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, IT APPEARS THAT THE U.S. IS TRYING TO UNDERMINE OUR NEGOTIATING POWER. THIS WILL NOT ONLY HURT THE OTHER DISTRICTS, BUT I SUSPECT IT MAY BE HARMFUL TO THE DESIRES OF THE MARIANAS TOO IN THE LONG RUN.

"SECOND, MR. SPEAKER, THIS KIND OF APPROACH MAY ENCOURAGE OTHER DISTRICTS OR AREAS OF MICRONESIA TO FOLLOW THE SAME STEPS.

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AND, OF COURSE, IF WE FOLLOW THIS KIND OF REASONING TO ITS ULTIMATE END, WE WILL HAVE ANARCHY.

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"THIRD, I FEEL THAT BY OPENING UP SEPARATE TALKS WITH THE MARIANAS THE UNITED STATES HAS OPENLY CONTRADICTED ITSELF. AT BARBER'S POINT, IF I READ THE TRANSCRIPT CORRECTLY, AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS INDICATED HE COULD NOT FIGURE OUT WHAT THE JOINT COMMITTEE WANTED TO DO. AND HE SAID, IN EFFECT, WE WILL HAVE TO BARGAIN FOR ONE OR THE OTHER KIND OF STATUS--REFERRING TO FEE ASSOCIATION, AND, YET, A SHORT TIME LATER HE AND HIS DELEGATION LANDED ON SAIPAN TO BARGAIN FOR A DIFFERENT STATUS FOR THE MARIANAS.

"FOURTH, AND FINALLY, MR. SPEAKER, IS MY ANXIETY THAT THESE ACTIONS I HAVE MENTIONED ARE DESIGNED TO DIVIDE MICRONESIA AND NOT TO UNIFY IT. IN THE PAST, AMERICA'S ACTIONS HAVE HAD THE EFFECT OF KEEPING US TOGETHER. NOW IT APPEARS, FOR SOME PURPOSE OF ITS OWN, IT WISHES TO ENCOURAGE DISUNITY. THIS DEVELOPMENT WORRIES ME GREATLY, MR. SPEAKER. DIVIDE AND CONQUER IS AN OLD TACTIC. I THINK IT IS BEING USED ON US AND I THINK THE U.S. IS NOT BEING VERY SUBTLE ABOUT IT EITHER.

"IN ORDER TO MAKE NO MISTAKE ABOUT IT, MR. SPEAKER, I AM SAYING THE MARIANAS DO HAVE THE RIGHT TO A SEPARATE STATUS. IF THAT IS WHAT

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THEY WANT, I THINK WE SHOULD HELP THEM. I DO FEEL, HOWEVER, THAT IT SHOULD BE DONE THROUGH THIS CONGRESS AND THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS NOT BEING DONE SHOULD BE LAID AT THE DOORSTEP OF AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS AND THE GOVERNMENT HE REPRESENTS.

"I AM VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THIS MATTER, MR. SPEAKER, BECAUSE IT CONCERNS OUR FUTURE PROGRESS AND WELL-BEING, AND THAT OF OUR CHILDREN. I THINK IT IS A MATTER WHICH SHOULD BE TALKED ABOUT AND DISCUSSED. AND FOR THAT REASON, I INTEND TO BRING THE MATTER AND THESE BRIEF THOUGHTS ABOUT IT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS VISITING MISSION WHEN IT COMES TO SAIPAN. I HOPE THAT SOME OF MY COLLEAGUES WILL JOIN ME IN DOING SO.

"I THANK YOU VERY MUCH, MR. SPEAKER."

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