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RDS or XDS EXT. DATE OADR  
TS AUTH. JWS REASON(S) E.O. 12356  
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS  SECS 1.3(a) (3) + (5)  
DECLASSIFIED  RELEASABLE  IN PART  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L //NO27C// SECTION ONE OF TWO  
FROM STATOS LNO  
PASS DEPARTMENT INTERIOR FOR OSNI(ACTION) AND DASTA (INFO)  
STATE FOR EA, IO/UNP, L/UNA  
COMTWELVE FOR AMB WILLIAMS  
DEFENSE FOR OSD/ISA  
WHITE HOUSE FOR HOLDRIDGE (NSC)  
USUN FOR AMB BENNETT  
SUBJECT: UN VISITING MISSION IN PONAPE DISTRICT  
1. THIS MESSAGE COORDINATED WITH IMMERMANN (USUN) AND SYLVESTER (IO/UNP)

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2. UNVM TOURED PONAPE ISLAND FEB 8-11, HELD TALKS WITH BOTH TRADITION-  
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AND ELECTED LEADERSHIP AND WITH STUDENTS AT HIGH SCHOOL AND JUNIOR  
COLLEGE LEVEL.

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3. ORIENTATION OF MEETING TOWARD CONSIDERATION OF FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS FOR IT PROVIDED ISSRAELYAN WITH AMPLE OPPORTUNITIES TO MAKE POINT ON BEHALF OF VM, IN ANSWER TO REPEATEDLY EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT PROVISIONS OF TRUSTESHIP AGREEMENT, THAT AGREEMENT HAD BEEN NEGOTIATED UNDER CONDITIONS PREVAILING AT TIME WHEN WORLD FEARED RESURGENCE OF FASCISM. "STRATEGIC" DESIGNATION OF TERRITORY DID NOT, HE CONTINUED ON HIS OWN BEHALF, GIVE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY RIGHT TO MAINTAIN PERMANENT MILITARY BASES WITHIN IT. HE TOLD MEETING WITH STUDENTS

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THAT SOVIET DELEGATION HAS EXPRESSED VIEW THAT THERE IS NO NEED TO KEEP MILITARY BASES IN MICRONESIA AND THAT MICRONESIA "CAN AND HAS TO BE GRANTED INDEPENDENCE"

4. TO JUDGE FROM QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS PUT TO VM BY WIDE RANGE OF MICRONESIANS, INCLUDING STUDENTS FROM OTHER DISTRICTS AS WELL AS PONAPE, MOST POLITICAL EDUCATION CONCERNING FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS IS BEING CARRIED OUT AT PRESENT BY CATHOLIC MISSION (JESUIT) AND MICRONESIAN LEGAL SERVICES (OEO). RESULTS, THOUGH PRODUCED THROUGH SEPARATE CHANNELS, APPEAR TO CONVERGE IN ARTICULATE SUPPORT BY CHOSEN SPOKESMEN, FOR INDEPENDENCE, SENTIMENT AGAINST MARIANAS SEPARATION, AND OPPOSITION TO ESTABLISHMENT OF U.S. MILITARY BASES. MISSION HAS BEEN

QUESTIONED SHARPLY ABOUT UN ABILITY TO INFLUENCE U.S. ON FUTURE STATUS OF TTPI. WORDING OF QUESTION OR COMMENTS IN DIFFERENT MEETINGS WITH ENTIRELY DIFFERENT SPEAKERS HAS BEEN SO SIMILAR THAT WE CONCLUDE, AS HAVE AT LEAST THREE FRIENDLY MEMBERS OF UNVM, THAT WE ARE WATCHING WELL-REHEARSED PROGRAM CONSISTING OF ACCURATE PLAY-BACK OF IMPLANTED IDEAS, COMPLETE WITH REFERENCES BY FARMERS IN REMOTE MUNICIPALITY TO PROVISION OF ARTICLES OF TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT AND UN CHARTER.

5. FOLLOWING ARE EXAMPLES OF REPEATED REMARKS MADE IN MEETING WITH VM:

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1) IF MICRONESIA CHOOSES INDEPENDENCE AND U.S. WON'T GIVE IT TO US WILL UN HELP US GET IT? 2) TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT WAS DRAWN UP WITHOUT CONSULTING US AND IT HAS PUT US IN POSITION WHERE WE ARE POWERLESS TO DETERMINE OUR OWN FUTURE;

3) IF U.S. ESTABLISHES MILITARY BASES, PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA WILL HAVE  
A

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HARD TIME;

4) U.S. HAS NOT DEVELOPED US TO MEET OBJECTIVES OF TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT; 5) IS U.S. INTERESTED IN HELPING MICRONESIANS OR JUST IN USING OUR LAND? 6) U.S. TALKS ABOUT FREEDOM BUT DISREGARDS US BECAUSE WE

HAVE SMALL POPULATION. (THIS COMMENT DREW IMPASSIONED RESPONSE FROM ISSRAELYAN WHOSE PERRATION WAS: "FREEDOM BELONGS TO ALL PEOPLE WITHOUT

EXCEPTION.") 7) WE KNOW UN STANDS FOR PEACE AND SECURITY; IF WE CAN DISSUADE U.S. FROM ESTABLISHING BASES HERE, THAT WOULD BE CONTRIBUTION TO PEACE AND SECURITY; 8) DOES UN KNOW THAT WHEN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS TOOK PLACE IN HAWAII THE MICRONESIAN DELEGATION SAID IT WANTED INDEPENDENCE BUT U.S.

FLATLY REFUSED TO DISCUSS IT? ( THIS DREW COMMENT FROM ISSRAELYAN THAT MEMBERS OF VM ARE "CAREFULLY FOLLOWING" STATUS NEGOTIATION BUT DIFFER IN IDEAS AND ASSESSMENTS OF WORK OF ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY)

9) AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS BROKE OFF TALKS BECAUSE HE DID NOT WANT TO DISCUSS INDEPENDENCE (IN BRIEF CONVERSATION WITH STUDENTS DURING VISIT

TO FATHER COSTIGAN'S SCHOOL (PATS) WE ATTEMPTED SETRECORD STRAIGHT ON

THIS POINT WHICH HAD BEEN OF PARTICULAR CONCERN THERE. RESPONSE WAS ONE OF CLOSE ATTENTIMN AND FRIENDLY INTEREST) ; 10) AMERICANS ARE MORE

INTERESTED IN MICRONESIAN LAND THAN IN MICRONESIANS; 11) U.S. HAS ALLOWED MARIANAS TO HOLD SEPARATE TALKS; IS THIS IN CONFORMITY WITH TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT, OR WILL IT ENCOURAGE FURTHER FRAGMENTATION? (NEWS OF SALII'S JOINT RESOLUTION DECLARING TTPI "ONE SINGLE AND INDIVISIBLE POLITICAL UNIT" HAS JUST REACHED PONAPE);

12) IT IS TIME FOR OS TO BECOME INDEPENDENT; IF U.S. BUILDS BASES, THEN

IT WILL BE TOO LATE.

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6. WHILE REMARKS ALONG ABOVE LINES SURFACED REPEATEDLY AT VARIOUS MEETINGS, CLEARER EXAMPLES OF RESULTS OF SPECIFIC POLITICAL EDUCATION

EFFORTS CAME IN PUBLIC MEETING IN KITI MUNICIPALITY AND IN SESSION WITH

TRADITIONAL LEADERS (NANMWARIS AND NANYKINS) ASSIMBLED AT KOLONIA DISTRICT CENTER. FORMER TOOK PLACE IN WENE SETTLEMENT TWO AND ONE-HALF HOURS' TRIP BY SPEED BOAT FROM KOLONIA, AT CATHOLIC MISSION IN RAIN FOREST SETTING. FOLLOWING A TRADITIONAL SAKAU (LOCAL HERR-DRINKING) CEREMONY, MEMBERS OF COMMUNITY WHO INTRODUCED THEMSELVES

AS MEMBERS OF PARISH CULTURAL GROUP, QUERIED AND COMMENTED TO VM MEMBERS

ALONG LINES INDICATED ABOVE: PARISH PRIEST (FATHER CAVANAGH-AMERICAN) TOLD US THAT FUTURE STATUS HAD BEEN SUBJECT OF SEMINAR AND HIS COLLEAGUES IN DISTRICT HELD RECENTLY AND ALSO OF STUDY BY HIS CULTURAL

GROUP WHICH HAS TOURED ISLAND AS POLITICAL EDUCATION TASK FORCE. HE NOTED THIS WORK IN LINE

WITH BISHOP'S RECENT PASTORAL LETTER (STATUS LNO 14.) FR. CAVANAGH EXPRESSED HIMSELF IN STRONG TERMS AS OPPOSED TO MICRONESIAN GRANTING OF LAND FOR U.S. MILITARY BASES, STATING THAT ANY LIMITATION ON MICRONESIAN SOVEREIGNTY WAS "IMMORAL". HE FEARS EVENTUAL SPREAD OF U.S. MILITARY DEMANDS AND WAS UNAWARE OF UNILATERAL TERMINATION ENVISAGED UNDER DRAFT COMPACT, BUT SEEMED

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INTERESTED TO LEARN OF U.S. POSITION ON THIS SUBJECT.

7. AS FOR TRADITIONAL LEADERS, THEIR POLITICAL GUIDE QUITE EVIDENTLY WAS THE MICRONESIAN LEGAL SERVICE, ONE OF WHOSE LAWYERS, EX-PCV BURDICK, SAT IN WITH THEM AND PROVIDED FREQUENT PROMPTING. THEIR PRINCIPAL COMPLAINT CONCERNED ALLEGED LOSS OF LAND AND TRADITIONAL TRIBUTES FOR LAND USE, BUT THIS SERVED AS LAUNCHING PAD FOR ATTACKS ON U.S. ALONG ABOVE LINES WITH EMPHASIS ON SUSPICION THAT U.S. IS "BRINGING MILITARY BASES TO OUR LANDS." ONE OF LEADING SPOKESMEN WAS EX-CONGRESSMAN HANS TRIARTE WHO LOST HIS SEAT LAST NOVEMBER. IN SPITE

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OF HAVING HELD THAT POSITION AND HAVING SIGNED SJR 117 CALLING FOR INDEPENDENCE NEGOTIATIONS, TRIARTE ASSERTED THAT HE WAS IN NO POSITION

TO CONSIDER STATUS ISSUE BECAUSE DOCUMENTS WERE BEING WITHHELD, PROBABLY IN ORDER TO HIDE REAL MEANING OF INDEPENDENCE.

8. THIS OBSERVATION EVOKED IMPASSIONED SPEECH FROM ISSRAELYAN WHO SAID

UN SUPPORTS SELF-DETERMINATION AND ENDEPENDENCE FOR ALL PEOPLES. HE SAID U.S. HAS SIGNED TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT WITH UN; U.S. HAS VETO POWER AND UN CANNOT IMPOSE ITS POSITION ON U.S. BUT CAN EXPRESS ITS VIEWS

WHICH HAVE "STRONG MORAL EFFECT." HE DECLARED: "UN CAN SUPPORT YOUR GOALS AND ASPIRATIONS."

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USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L // N027C // FINAL SECTION OF TWO  
9. ASHWIN TOOK OCCASION TO OBSERVE THAT WHILE TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT GIVES ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY OBLIGATION TO LEAD MICRONESIANS TOWARD DETERMINATION OF THEIR OWN FUTURE, INDEPENDENCE IS NOT THE ONLY CHOICE. HE SAID HE HAD NO DOUBT U.S. INTENDS TO FULFILL ITS OBLIGATIONS AND, IF MICRONESIA CHOOSES INDEPENDENCE, HE DOES NOT DOUBT THAT U.S. WOULD AGREE.  
10. DISCUSSION WITH MEMBERS OF DISTRICT LEGISLATURE PROCEEDED IN NOTABLY LOWER KEY THAN THOSE WITH OTHER GROUPS, AND SHOWED NO STRONG SIGNS OF ADVANCE COACHING. SPEAKER ITOR HARRIS SAID LEGISLATURE HAD

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TAKEN NO OFFICIAL POSITION ON STATUS QUESTION. HE FELT PEOPLE NOT SUFFICIENTLY INFORMED AS TO NEGOTIATIONS. HE SAID CONGRESSMEN SOMETIMES ARE INTERVIEWED ON RADIO BUT RARELY DISCUSS FUTURE STATUS WITH PEOPLE. "WE NEED DEFINITION OF FREE ASSOCIATION AND INDEPENDENCE," HE SAID. ANOTHER MEMBER THOUGHTOUT NEGOTIATIONS WERE GOING TOO FAST AND RUNNING AHEAD OF SUFFICIENT EXPLANATION AND DOCUMENTATION IN VERBACULAR.  
11. FINAL MEETING OF VERY FULL SCHEDULE WAS WITH KUSAIEAN COMMUNITY AND CHIEF MAGISTRATE SKILLING. THEY PRESENTED FORMAL STATEMENT BACKING UP KUSAIE'S LONG DESIRE TO BE DESIGNATED SEPARATE DISTRICT.

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ARGUMENTATION WAS BASED ON VIEW THAT DISTRICT STATUS WOULD BRING IMPROVED FACILITIES, ESPECIALLY TRANSPORTATION. STATEMENT ALSO CALLED ON U.S. AND FRANCE TO STOP WEAPONS TESTING IN PACIFIC AND ASKED FOR UN HELP IN CASE MICRONESIAN OPTS FOR INDEPENDENCE AND U.S. WON'T GRANT. STATEMENT ALSO SAID: "WE SEE ASPIRATIONS AND GOALS FOR ALL MICRONESIANS AS COMMON ONES, AND OPPOSE ANY NATION WHICH SEEKS TO SPLIT OUR UNITY BY USING SOME OF US TO FURTHER THEIR OWN INTERESTS." VM, WHICH HAD HOPED TO VISIT KUSAIE BUT WAS UNABLE TO DO SO DUE TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS, PRESSED DELEGATION FOR AMPLIFICATION OF THEIR VIEWS ON STATUS.

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ANSWER WAS THAT THEY REALLY NEEDED MORE TIME TO DECIDE THEIR POSITION. ONE KUSAIEAN TOLD US LATER THAT STATEMENT HAD BEEN DRAFTED FOR GROUP BY MLS LAWYER AND DID NOT ACCURATELY REFLECT PEOPLE'S VIEWS ON STATUS ISSUE.

12. BLANC IS HANDLING HIS CHAIRMANSHIP JOB WITH SKILL AND TACT THOUGH BECOMING RESTIVE UNDER ISSRAELYAN'S INCREASING PRESSURE TO MAKE POINTS FOR USSR. BLANC IS STRESSING ROLE OF VM AND UN ITSELF WITH RESPECT TO TTPI. IN COURSE OF HIS EXPLANATIONS HE HAS LAID DOWN SOME FIRM STATEMENTS THAT WILL NOT EASE OUR PATH: E.G 1) RE MARIANAS SEPARATISM, HE SAID TC HAS EXPRESSED ITS VIEWS ON THIS SUBJECT. IN PRINCIPLE UN SUPPORTS UNITY IN TERRITORIES. (BLANC READ FROM TC RECOMMENDATION RE MARIANAS.) 2) RE BASES; IN ANSWER TO QUESTION FROM STUDENT, BLANC SAID UNDER TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT, ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY IS OBLIGED RPT OBLIGED TO DEVELOP THE TERRITORY; IT IS ONLY ENTITLED RPT ENTITLED TO ESTABLISH BASES.

13. COMMENT: VISIT POINTED UP STARKLY THE PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN POLITICAL EDUCATION WITH REGARD TO DETERMINATION BY MICRONESIANS OF THEIR FUTURE STATUS. WHILE IN THE MARSHALLS WE FOUND LITTLE EVIDENCE OF ANY CONSCIOUS PROGRAM. IN PONAPE THERE AROSE PROOF OF VERY DEFINITE ACTIVITY IN THIS FIELD WITH RESULTS WHICH ARE NOT IN CONFORMITY WITH U.S. POLICY. THE PROGRAMS INVOLVED ALREADY GAVE MORE THAN A HEAD START. ARE CARRIED OUT AS NEEDED IN THE VERNACULAR AND OPERATE WITH

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IN ESTABLISHED LOCAL FRAMEWORK. WHILE THEIR DIRECTION MIGHT NOT BE CHANGED, IT IS AT LEAST ADVISABLE THAT THEIR OPERATORS HAVE ACCESS TO ACCURATE AND ADEQUATE INFORMATION. HOW THIS CAN BE DONE AND EVEN MORE IMPORTANT,

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HOW INFORMATION ON ALL ASPECTS OF STATUS ISSUE CAN BE PUT IN HANDS AND HEADS OF MICRONESIANS IN GENERAL CALLS FOR OUR URGENT ATTENTION. WE HOPE TO COME UP WITH RECOMMENDATIONS ON BASIS OF VALUABLE OPPORTUNITY AFFORDED BY THIS TRIP WITH UNVM TO OBSERVE THE NEEDS.

14. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT EXPOSITION OF VIEWS ON FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS WHICH SURFACED IN PONAPE PROBABLY INVOLVES CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF ROLE-PLAYING IN WHICH REHEARSED PARTS HAVE BEEN PLAYED OUT ON STAGE OF MEETINGS WITH UNVM. TO SIFT OUT THE ASSIGNED, OR ASSUMED,

LINES AND GET TO REAL OPINIONS IS COMPLEX TASK REQUIRING ON OUR PART OPPORTUNITY FOR DEEPER PERCEPTION, AND ON THEIRS, FOR MORE INFORMATION AND UNDERSTANDING RE ISSUES INVOLVED. WE LEAVE WITH IMPRESSION THAT SOME LEADING SPOKESMEN FROM VARIOUS SECTIONS OF SOCIETY ARE BEING DELIBERATELY INDOCTRINATED BUT THAT PREVALENT SITUATION REKNOWLEDGE OF STATUS ISSUE IS ONE OF CONSIDERABLE IGNORANCE AND CONFUSION.

15. PROSPECTS APPEAR TO BE FOR RATHER ROUGH TIME AHEAD FOR US BOTH IN UN AND IN MICRONESIA IN CONTINUING PROCESS OF WORKING OUT FUTURE STATUS OF MICRONESIA. B.A.

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