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 Department of State **TELEGRAM**

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 ACTION INT-08

INFO OCT-01 10-12 EA-11 PM-09 L-03 JUSE-00 SS-15 PA-03
 PRS-01 INR-10 RSC-01 PSR-01 /075 W

Saipan #
 4-23-73

P 230310Z APR 73
 FM HICOMTERPACIS SAIPAN
 TO SECSTATE
 COMTWELVE SAN FRANCISCO
 JCS/SECDEF
 CINCPAC
 WHITE HOUSE
 INFO CINCPACREP GUAM/TTP
 USUN NEW YORK
 AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
 AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR	
REVIEWED BY <u>Sheep</u>	DATE <u>FEB. 25 1967</u>
RDS <input type="checkbox"/> or XDS <input type="checkbox"/> EXT. DATE _____	
TS AUTH. _____	REASON(S) _____
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS <input type="checkbox"/>	
DECLASSIFIED <input type="checkbox"/> RELEASABLE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
RELEASE DENIED <input type="checkbox"/>	
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS _____	

UNCLAS. FROM STATUS LNO NO. 93
 PASS TO DEPT 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 NSC
 USUN FOR AMB. BENNETT
 PASS JUSTICE FOR MARCUSE (OLC)

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 AMEMBASSY CANBERRA FOR POL
 AMEMBASSY TOKYO FOR POL

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORT SALII COMMENT ON MICRONESIAN SEPARATISM

① 1. PACIFIC DAILY NEWS, APRIL 21, FRONT-PAGED STORY FROM ITS SAIPAN BUREAU REPORTING THAT JCFS CHAIRMAN SENATOR LAZARUS SALII HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN "OVER SIGNS THAT AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVES AT THE TEMPORARILY-STALLED STATUS NEGOTIATIONS MIGHT TAKE A HARD LINE APPROACH AT THE NEXT ROUND OF TALKS, TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED TO BEGIN MAY 20 IN WASHINGTON." SALII IS QUOTED AS

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SAYING THAT IN LIGHT OF SEPARATIST RUMBLINGS, U.S. "SEEMS CONFIDENT IT CAN DEAL NOT ONLY WITH THE MARIANAS SEPARATELY BUT ALSO WITH THE MARSHALLS AND POSSIBLY OTHER DISTRICTS IN SEPARATE NEGOTIATIONS AND IN EFFECT, BY-PASS THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA."
2. STORY SAYS SALII HAD RECEIVED WORD THAT U.S. DEPUTY REPRESENTATIVE FOR MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS, JAMES M. WILSON, INDICATED AT A SYMPOSIUM IN WASHINGTON LAST WEEK THAT THE AMERICAN

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DELEGATION MIGHT NO LONGER BE WILLING TO PRESERVE THE CURRENT DIRECTION OF THE TALKS. DESCRIBING HIS SOURCE AS AN "UNIMPEACHABLE WASHINGTON ATTORNEY," ACCORDING TO PDN STORY, SALII SAID WILSON INDICATED HE DIDN'T CARE WHETHER MICRONESIA WANTED FREE ASSOCIATION OR INDEPENDENCE, JUST THAT "HE WANTED TO GET ON WITH IT."

3. SALII'S UNNAMED SOURCE IS QUOTED AS STATING : "THE UNITED STATES IS ASSUMING A DEVIL-MAY-CARE ATTITUDE BECAUSE IT 'HAS' THE MARIANAS, AND THAT THE MARSHALL ISLANDS WILL NOT OPT FOR INDEPENDENCE AND CUT OFF THEIR MONEY SUPPLY. BY FORCING THE DECISION ON MICRONESIA, IT WILL PROBABLY SPLIT UP THE DISTRICTS INTO MANAGEABLE, OR MORE ECONOMICAL, CHUNKS FOR THE U.S."

4. PDN STORY CONCLUDES BY SAYING THAT SALII CHARGED IT HAS BEEN KNOWN FOR SOME TIME THAT THE U.S. WAS EMPLOYING "DIVIDE AND CONQUER" TACTIC IN THE ISLANDS.

5. DATELINE ISSUE SAME DAY CARRIES ADDITIONAL TEXT, APPARENTLY OMITTED FROM PDN STORY, STATING THAT SALII HAD SAID THAT SEPARATE TALKS BY INDIVIDUAL DISTRICTS WAS "PLAYING DIRECTLY INTO AMERICAN HANDS. THE U.S. HAS KNOWN FOR SOMETIME OUR BONDS OF UNITY WERE WEAK. THEY ARE MAKING THOSE BONDS WEAKER. IF MICRONESIA IS TO SURVIVE, WE MUST NEGOTIATE AS A UNITED PEOPLE."
TRENT

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