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Micronesian News Service
Revised February 3, 1972
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RUHGSAA/COMCBPAC

RUHGSAA/HAVFACNGCOM HDQRTS

RUHGSAA/PACDIVNACFACENCOM

RUHGSAA/HICOMTERPACIS LNO HONO

BT

UNCLAS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA/COMTWELVE/HICOMRY OKINAWA NOT

ADDEES PASS INFO

CANBERRA FOR POL SECTION

COMTWELVE FOR AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS

USCAR FOR TTPI LNO

SECSTATE PASS TO DEPT INT/SEC INTERIOR/DASTA/OSN

14 (MARIANAS REAFFIRMS POSITION)

15 SAIPAN, APRIL 26 (MNS)---The Political Leaders of the
16 Mariana Islands District have officially informed the U.S.
17 Government of their intention to establish a Marianas Political
18 Status Commission for the purpose of negotiating the District's
19 future status.
20 The notification came in a letter to Ambassador Franklin

03- 023259

1 Haydn Williams, signed by nearly all of the top political
2 leaders of the Marianas District.

3 The letter was written following meetings held last week
4 between Ambassador Williams and the political leaders on Saipan.
5 The letter indicates that the leadership has determined through
6 a series of meetings throughout the district that the desire of
7 the people of the Marianas to unite with the U.S. is as strong as
8 ever. The letter states:

9 "In the event that there is any doubt that this Statement
10 of Position is supported by the people of the Mariana Islands
11 District, we, the elected leaders and officials of our district,
12 want the record to show that this Statement of Position is fully
13 supported and endorsed by us and by the people whom we represent.

14 "In the several meetings held with representatives of
15 villages, municipalities, and district, support of the Statement
16 of Position was unanimously reaffirmed, as it was in the
17 plebiscites that were held in 1961, 1963, and 1969. So you can
18 see that the desire of the people of the Mariana Islands District
19 to become a permanent part of the United States of America is
20 fundamental and has existed over a number of years.

1 "Our exposure to American democracy", the letter continues,
2 "spans over a quarter of a century since the United States assumed
3 administrative responsibilities of the Trust Territory of the
4 Pacific Islands at the conclusion of World War II. During this
5 time, we have grown to appreciate and cherish the ideals of
6 democracy and want to join the American political family.

7 "We pledge to you and your government our loyalty and
8 dedication to the principles for which America stands, and
9 further, we stand ready to accept the responsibilities of the
10 freedom that the United States of America guarantees and
11 defends.

12 "It is, therefore, our firm and immediate intention,"
13 said the letter," to forge ahead in creating a political status
14 commission which will represent the people of the Marianas in
15 matters regarding a change of status. When those arrangements
16 are completed, we would like to open formal discussions with
17 your government at the earliest opportunity for the purpose of
18 effecting a close political union with the United States of
19 America.

20 "In closing, we wish again to express to your government