

Status

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2.7

ZCZC HSA41/BS/NL SZA SAA SGA
 ZNR UUUUU
 P 090641Z MAY 73 ZNZ1
 FM HICOMTERPACIS SAIPAN
 TO ZEN/ALDISTAD TERPACIS
 ZEN/LNO GUAM
 RUHGSAA/LNO KWAJ
 RUHGSAA/COMNAVMAIANAS
 RUHGSAA/CINCPAC
 RUHGSAA/CINCPACREPGUAM/TTPI
 RUHGSAA/USANVINVSERVO GUAM
 RUHGSAA/ANEMBASSY CANBERRA
 RUWJAJA/COMTWELVE/SAN FRAN CALIFORNIA
 RUEHC/SECSTATE
 RUAOBQA/HQ USARBCO-MACHINATO/TTPI-LNO
 RUHGSAA/SEC DEF
 RUHGSAA/JCS
 RUHGSAA/CNO
 RUHGSAA/CHINFO
 RUHGSAA/CINCPACFLT
 RUHGSAA/CINCPACF
 RUHGSAA/USMISSION USUN NY

MAY 73 ORIG.....PID
 INFO.....D/PA
 INFO.....BD
 INFO.....D/TC
 INFO.....SA/LA
 INFO.....STATUS LNC
 INFO.....NAVY LNO
 INFO.....HC
 INFO.....DHC

PAGE TWO DE RUHGSAA UNCLAS
 RUHGSAA/CGFHPAC
 RUHGSAA/COMOBPAC
 RUHGSAA/NAVAFACNSCOM HDSRTS
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 RUHGSAA/HICOMTERPACIS LNO HONO
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 ST

UNCLAS (SECTION I OF III)
 ANEMBASSY CANBERRA/COMTWELVE/NOT ADDEES PASS INFO
 CANBERRA FOR POL SECTION
 COMTWELVE FOR AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS
 SECSTATE PASS TO DEPT INT/SEC INTERIOR/DASTA OSW
 TTPI NO. 266

(WILLIAMS ISSUES STATEMENT)

MAJURO MAY 9 (MNS)---UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR FRANKLIN
 MAYOR WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT NIXON'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR
 MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS, LEFT MAJURO WEDNESDAY (MAY 9)
 FOR TRUK FOLLOWING TWO DAYS OF MEETINGS WITH THE SIX DISTRICT
 ADMINISTRATORS OF THE TRUST TERRITORY DURING THEIR SEMI-ANNUAL
 DISTAD CONFERENCE. BEFORE LEAVING THE MARSHALL ISLANDS,
 AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT TO THE PRESS:

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"I HAVE BEEN IN MAJURO THE PAST TWO DAYS AT THE INVITATION OF THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATORS TO DISCUSS WITH THEM THE NEGOTIATIONS ON A FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS FOR MICRONESIA. WE DISCUSSED THE MEETINGS I HELD IN HONOLULU LAST FRIDAY AND SATURDAY WITH SENATOR LAZARUS SALII AND CONGRESSMAN EKPAP SILK, RESPECTIVELY CHAIRMAN AND CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA'S JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS, TO REVIEW PROGRESS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS TO DATE AND TO PLAN FOR FURTHER MOVEMENT TOWARD A RESOLUTION OF THE STATUS QUESTION. THE HONOLULU TALKS WERE USEFUL AND PRODUCTIVE. WE AGREED ON SOME INTERMEDIATE STEPS WHICH MUST BE TAKEN BETWEEN NOW AND THE TIME--TENTATIVELY SET FOR LATE THIS SUMMER--WHEN OUR FULL DELEGATIONS WILL JOINTLY TURN TO THE TASK OF COMPLETING A DRAFT COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION. IN THE MEANTIME THE CO-CHAIRMAN AND I WILL BE HOLDING A SERIES OF INFORMAL MEETINGS IN PREPARATION FOR THE RESUMPTION OF WORK ON THE COMPACT.

"THE U.S. HAD BEEN PREPARED TO RESUME FULL NEGOTIATIONS THIS MONTH, WHEN A NEW ELEMENT WHICH REQUIRES CAREFUL STUDY WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE NEGOTIATIONS BY THE JOINT COMMITTEE. I WAS INFORMED THAT IT HAD NOW BECOME THE POSITION OF THE JOINT

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COMMITTEE AND THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA THAT THE CURRENT POLITICAL STATUS NEGOTIATIONS CANNOT GO FORWARD UNLESS AND UNTIL ALL PUBLIC LAND IN PALAU IS RETURNED TO THE TRADITIONAL CHIEFS IN THE DISTRICT IN TRUST FOR THE PEOPLE.

"THIS ISSUE IS NEW ONLY WITH RESPECT TO TIMING, NOT SUBSTANCE. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON PUBLIC LAND IS CLEAR. WE STATED AT HANA THAT ALL MICRONESIAN LAND BELONGS TO THE MICRONESIANS, THAT ITS CONTROL SHOULD REST IN THE HANDS OF MICRONESIANS, THAT IT IS OUR INTENTION THAT ALL PUBLIC LAND WILL BE RETURNED TO MICRONESIANS, AND THAT ULTIMATE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DISPOSITION OF PUBLIC LAND SHOULD REST WITH MICRONESIANS.

"WE HAD ASSUMED THAT THE WISHES OF THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA REGARDING CONTROL AND DISPOSITION OF LAND WOULD BE REFLECTED IN A MICRONESIA CONSTITUTED AND IN THE SUBSEQUENT DECISIONS TAKEN BY DULY CONSTITUTED AUTHORITIES AT THE CENTRAL AND DISTRICT LEVELS. NOW THE JOINT COMMITTEE AND THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA WANT THE U.S. TO UNDERTAKE THE TASK OF RETURNING PUBLIC LAND TO PALAU.

"THE U.S. INTENDS TO CONSIDER THIS SUGGESTION CAREFULLY. NATURALLY, WE MUST WEIGHT IT IN RELATIONSHIP TO ALL OF

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PAGE FIVE DE RUMGSAA UNCLAS
MICRONESIA'S DISTRICTS. THE REAL QUESTION IS TO WHOM OR WHAT ENTITY IN THE DISTRICTS THE LAND SHOULD BE RETURNED. BECAUSE OF THE MULTIPLICITY OF DIFFERENT LAND TRADITIONS AMONG THE VARIOUS DISTRICTS, THE RETURN OF THE PUBLIC LANDS IS A COMPLEX QUESTION REQUIRING EXTENSIVE CONSULTATION AND REFLECTION. WE ARE PROCEEDING TO EXAMINE IT AND WILL BE SOLICITING THE VIEWS OF ALL THOSE HAVING EXPERTISE IN THIS FIELD--THE TTPI ADMINISTRATION, THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA AND THE JOINT COMMITTEE, AND OFFICIALS AND PRIVATE CITIZEN LEADERS AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL. WHILE I DO NOT KNOW WHAT THE ULTIMATE DECISION WILL BE ON THE TIMING OF THE RETURN OF THE PUBLIC LANDS, I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THE U.S. WILL WANT TO BE RESPONSIVE TO THE WISHES OF THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA AND THEIR LEADERS AT THE VARIOUS LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT.

"MANY MICRONESIANS CONSIDER THE QUESTION OF POLITICAL UNITY TO BE THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE FACED BY MICRONESIA TODAY. THE PROBLEM IS BASICALLY ONE WHICH THE MICRONESIANS MUST RESOLVE FOR THEMSELVES. HOWEVER, THE U.S. HAS PURSUED THE FUTURE STATUS NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS IN THE HOPE AND EXPECTATION THAT A COMMON STATUS WILL BE FORTHCOMING FOR THE MARSHALLS AND THE CAROLINES. THE U.S. WILL

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CONTINUE TO HOPE THAT OUT OF THOSE NEGOTIATIONS AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY OUT OF THE DELIBERATIONS WITHIN MICRONESIA REGARDING THE NATURE OF YOUR FUTURE GOVERNMENT--WILL COME A UNITED MICRONESIA. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT DESPITE CONSIDERABLE CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND DIFFERING LOCAL PROBLEMS AND INTERESTS, A UNIFIED MICRONESIA WOULD BEST MEET THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND OTHER NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE CONCERNED. I WOULD LIKE TO RENEW OUR FREQUENT EARLIER SUGGESTIONS THAT THE MICRONESIANS AND THEIR LEADERS BEGIN SOON THE PROCESS OF FRAMING THEIR FUTURE GOVERNMENT IN ORDER TO DEFINE, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE DIVISION OF AUTHORITY BETWEEN THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT AND THE DISTRICTS, LAWS ON MATTERS PERTAINING TO LAND, AND POLICIES WITH RESPECT TO COLLECTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF REVENUES.

"THROUGHOUT THE NEGOTIATIONS ON MICRONESIA'S FUTURE STATUS THERE HAS BEEN A CONSTANCY OF U.S. PURPOSE AND POLICY. THE U.S. INTENDS TO LIVE UP TO ITS TREATY COMMITMENT. THE U.S. HAS AN OBLIGATION TO THE PEOPLE OF THE TRUST TERRITORY TO GIVE THEM AN OPPORTUNITY TO CHOOSE FREELY THEIR OWN FUTURE. THE U.S. INTENDS TO FULFILL THAT OBLIGATION. WHILE WE HAVE SAID THAT THE MICRONESIANS WILL HAVE THE FULL RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION,
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ZEN/LNO GUAM
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RUHGSAA/USMISSION USUN NY

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PAGE TWO DE RUHGSAA UNCLAS
RUHGSAA/CGFNPAC
RUHGSAA/COMCBPAC
RUHGSAA/NAVFAENGCOM HDQRTS
RUHGSAA/PACDIVNCFACENGCOM
RUHGSAA/HICOMTERPACIS LNO HONO
RUHGSAA/SAMTEC/CEI VAFB CA

BT
UNCLAS (SECTION II OF III)
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA/COMTWELVE/NOT ADDRES PASS INFO
CANBERRA FOR POL SECTION
COMTWELVE FOR AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS
SECSTATE PASS TO DEPT INT/SEC INTERIOR/DASTA OSH
TTPI NO. 268

THAT SOVEREIGNTY RESIDES IN THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA, IT IS ALSO OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO SEE THAT THEY ARE NOT STAMPED INTO A DECISION OF FUTURE STATUS BY LOCAL MINORITIES URGING ONE SOLUTION OR ANOTHER. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE HAVE NO DESIRE TO DELAY AN EARLY RESOLUTION OF THE FUTURE STATUS QUESTION.

PAGE THREE DE RUMGSAA UNCLAS

"WE FAVOR AN ORDERLY TRANSITION TO FULL SELF-GOVERNMENT AND TERMINATION OF THE TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT ON A TIME-TABLE APPROVED BY THE PEOPLE CONCERNED--THE MICRONESIANS THEMSELVES. THE U.S. THEREFORE STANDS READY TO CONTINUE TO WORK COOPERATIVELY WITH THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS, WITH THE LEADERS AND PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA, TOWARD A STATUS AGREEMENT REFLECTING THE TRUE WILL OF THE PEOPLE." THIS CONCLUDES A FORMAL STATEMENT ISSUED WEDNESDAY IN MAJURO BY U.S. AMBASSADOR FRANKLIN HAYDN WILLIAMS.

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