

[Date 5/15/73]

Mar. II

10  
5

ZCZC HSA37/15/NL SZA SAA SGA  
 ZNR UUUUU  
 P 150630Z MAY 73 ZNZI  
 FM HICOMTERPACIS SAIPAN  
 TO ZEN/ALDISTAD TERPACIS  
 ZEN/LNO GUAM  
 RUHGSAA/LNO KWAJ  
 RUHGSAA/COMNAVMARIANAS  
 RUHGSAA/CINCPAC  
 RUHGSAA/CINCPACREPGUAM/TTPI  
 RUHGSAA/USNAVINVSERVO GUAM  
 RUHGSAA/AMEMBASSY 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.....SA/LA  
 INFO.....BD  
 INFO.....STATUS LNO  
 INFO.....NAVY LNO  
 INFO.....D/TC  
 INFO.....DHC  
 INFO.....HC

PAGE TWO DE RUHGSAA UNCLAS  
 RUHGSAA/CSFMPAC  
 RUHGSAA/COMOBPAC  
 RUHGSAA/HAUFACNGCOM HDQRTS  
 RUHGSAA/PACDIVNCFACNGCOM  
 RUHGSAA/HICOMTERPACIS LNO HONO  
 RUHGSAA/SAMTEC/CEI VAFB CA  
 BT

UNCLAS (SECTION I OF IV)  
 AMEMBASSY CANBERRA/COMTWELVE/NOT ADDEES PASS INFO  
 CANBERRA FOR POL SECTION  
 COMTWELVE FOR AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS  
 SECSTATE PASS TO DEPT INT/SEC INTERIOR/DASTA OSN  
 TTPI NO. 274

(MARIANAS TALKS BEGIN)

SAIPAN MAY 15 (MNS)---WITH A MINIMUM OF CEREMONY, THE SECOND ROUND IN THE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS OF THE MARIANA ISLANDS FORMALLY OPENED TUESDAY MORNING (MAY 15) ON SAIPAN. THE SETTING WAS THE DINING ROOM OF THE ROYAL TAGA HOTEL, AS AN AUDIENCE OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC LOOKED ON.

UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR FRANKLIN HAYDN WILLIAMS AND SENATOR

PAGE THREE DE RUHGSAA UNCLAS

EDWARD PANGELINAN OF THE MARIANAS, CHAIRMEN OF THEIR RESPECTIVE DELEGATIONS, DELIVERED PREPARED OPENING STATEMENTS AFTER EXCHANGING GREETINGS AND INTRODUCING THEIR FELLOW DELEGATION MEMBERS. THE SPEECHES WERE TRANSLATED INTO CHAMORRO, NO ONE OTHER THAN THE CHAIRMEN WAS INVITED TO SPEAK, AND INCLUDING A FEW MINUTES AFTERWARD FOR PICTURE TAKING ON THE BEACH THE WHOLE OPENING SESSION TOOK LESS THAN AN HOUR. WORKING SESSIONS WILL BEGIN WEDNESDAY MORNING, BUT WILL BE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC.

BY PRE-ARRANGEMENT AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS CHAIRED THE FIRST PLENARY SESSION, AND SPOKE FIRST. HE ASSURED THE MARIANAS NEGOTIATORS OF THE U.S. DESIRE FOR PRODUCTIVE TALKS, AND OF AMERICAN APPRECIATION OF THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS FOR CLOSE AND PERMANENT TIES WITH THE UNITED STATES. HE ALSO REMINDED HIS LISTENERS OF BOTH THE RESPONSIBILITIES AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE U.S. FOR MAINTENANCE OF PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE PACIFIC, AND FOR PROMOTING THE SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF THE PEOPLE OF THE TRUST TERRITORY, AND PROVIDING THEM WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO CHOOSE THEIR OWN POLITICAL FUTURE.

THE AMBASSADOR THEN SPOKE OF MICRONESIAN UNITY. "...THE

PAGE FOUR DE RUHGSAA UNCLAS

U.S. HAS ENCOURAGED POLITICAL UNITY IN THE TTPI AND SOUGHT TO PROMOTE A COMMON FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS FOR ALL OF MICRONESIA," HE SAID. "THIS WAS THE POLICY CONSISTENTLY FOLLOWED BY THE U.S. UNTIL LAST APRIL WHEN THE DECISION WAS FINALLY MADE TO RESPOND POSITIVELY TO THE REPEATED REQUEST OF THE MARIANAS DISTRICT FOR SEPARATE STATUS TALKS. IT WAS NOT EASY TO MAKE THIS EXCEPTION. IT WAS BASED ON THE LONG POST WORLD WAR TWO HISTORY OF THE DESIRE OF THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS FOR POLITICAL UNION--A DESIRE THAT HAD BEEN EXPRESSED OVER A PERIOD OF TWENTY YEARS TO THE UNITED STATES, THE UNITED NATIONS AND MORE RECENTLY TO THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA. IT WAS BASED ON THE CONVICTION THAT IN VIEW OF THIS LONG HISTORY, REFUSAL OF THE MARIANAS' REQUEST AND FORCING THEM INTO A FUTURE RELATIONSHIP AGAINST THEIR WILL WOULD CONSTITUTE A DENIAL OF THEIR OWN RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION."

AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS SAID THE TASK FACING BOTH SIDES DURING THE CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS IS TO TRANSLATE PAST EXPRESSIONS OF SENTIMENT, OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING, AND OF PAST RESOLUTIONS AND PETITIONS "INTO THE PRECISE LANGUAGE OF AGREEMENTS DEFINING YOUR FUTURE LEGAL STATUS WITHIN THE AMERICAN

031989

PAGE FIVE DE RUHGSAA UNCLAS  
GOVERNMENTAL SYSTEM."

"WE ARE CONFIDENT," HE ADDED, "THAT YOUR DESIRE FOR POLITICAL UNION CAN BE REALIZED UNDER A COMMONWEALTH ARRANGEMENT WITHIN THE GUIDELINES LAID DOWN IN THE AMERICAN CONSTITUTION." IN REFERRING TO COMMONWEALTH, WILLIAMS NOTED THAT UNION WITH GUAM, ONCE THE POSITION OF AT LEAST SOME MARIANAS LEADERS, IS NO LONGER THE PREFERRED POSITION.

SENATOR PANGELINAN, IN HIS STATEMENT, TOOK NOTE OF THE FACT THAT DURING THE FOUR MONTHS SINCE THE FIRST ROUND OF TALKS, LAST DECEMBER, CONSULTANTS RETAINED BY HIS COMMISSION HAVE BEEN HARD AT WORK, AND TWO POSITION PAPERS, DEALING WITH POLITICAL STATUS AND ECONOMICS, WERE PRESENTED TO THE U.S. DELEGATION FOR THEIR STUDY THIS WEEK.

"THE COMMISSION LOOKS FORWARD TO YOUR CAREFUL CONSIDERATION OF THESE PAPERS AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE THEM FURTHER WITH YOU IN OUR WORKING SESSIONS," THE SENATOR SAID. HE INDICATED THAT OTHER PAPERS COVERING OTHER TOPICS OF IMPORTANCE IN THE OVERALL STATUS NEGOTIATIONS MAY BE FORTHCOMING.

SENATOR PANGELINAN ALSO CAUTIONED THAT FULL AGREEMENT ON ALL QUESTIONS MAY NOT NECESSARILY COME EASILY, DESPITE THE FACT

PAGE SIX DE RUHGSAA UNCLAS  
THAT BOTH THE U.S. AND THE MARIANAS DELEGATIONS ARE IN GENERAL AGREEMENT ON THE ULTIMATE POLITICAL UNION OF THE MARIANAS AND THE UNITED STATES.

"THE MEMBERS OF THIS COMMISSION ARE WELL AWARE OF THE COMPLEXITIES INVOLVED IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS," HE SAID. "WE RECOGNIZE THAT THERE ARE AREAS WHERE AGREEMENT WILL COME EASILY AND OTHERS WHERE THE DIFFERENCES WILL SEEM AT FIRST GLANCE TO BE INSURMOUNTABLE. I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THIS COMMISSION IS PREPARED TO DISCUSS ALL ISSUES WITH AN OPEN MIND AND TO NEGOTIATE IN GOOD FAITH. WE ARE NOT LOOKING FOR DECEPTIVELY SIMPLE SOLUTIONS TO DIFFICULT PROBLEMS. NEITHER OUR CONSTITUENTS NOR OUR DESCENDANTS WOULD TOLERATE SUCH ACTION BY THIS COMMISSION. OUR REPORT MUST GO TO THE DISTRICT LEGISLATURE AND THEN TO THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS. EVERY MEMBER OF THIS COMMISSION WANTS TO BE ABLE TO DEFEND THE PRODUCT OF OUR NEGOTIATIONS WITH CONFIDENCE AND PRIDE. OUR WORK TOGETHER IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS CAN PRODUCE AN AGREEMENT WHICH WILL BRING HONOR TO YOUR GOVERNMENT, AND ENABLE THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS TO ACHIEVE IN FULL MEASURE THE DEMOCRATIC IDEALS LONG SYMBOLIZED BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA" THE

BT

*Ch. Williams, 20th Dec 1978*