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FROM STATUS LNO NO. 105

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 FOR NSC

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USUN FOR AMB BENNETT
PASS JUSTICE FOR MARCUSE (OLC)
AMEMBASSY MANILA, TOKYO, TAIPEI, HONG KONG FOR POL
FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PRESS RELEASE MADE JOINTLY MAY 17 BY
SENATOR EDWARD DLG. PANGELINAN AND AMBASSADOR FRANKLIN HAYDN
WILLIAMS, CHAIRMEN RESPECTIVELY OF THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS
COMMISSION AND THE AMERICAN DELEGATION TO THE MARIANAS. STATUS
TALKS:

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A SERIES OF INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO DELEGATIONS IN SAIPAN LAST WEEK INITIATED THE CURRENT PHASE IN OUR CONTINUING JOINT ENDEAVOR, BEGUN HERE LAST DECEMBER, TO CREATE LASTING TIES BETWEEN THE MARIANAS ISLANDS AND THE UNITED STATES. THOSE INFORMAL EXCHANGES PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY FOR PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATION OF MOST OF THE MAJOR TOPICS BEARING ON THE MARIANAS! FUTURE STATUS, INCLUDING SUCH MATTERS AS THE NATURE OF THE POLITICAL RELATIONSHIP, FINANCE, SELF GOVERNMENT, PUBLIC LAND, LAND ALIENATION, AND U.S. MILITARY LAND REQUIREMENTS. BOTH SIDES FOUND THE SESSIONS USEFUL AS THEY PREPARED FOR THE RESUMPTION OF THE FORMAL TALKS THIS WEEK.

THE FORMAL DISCUSSIONS WERE RENEWED IN A PLENARY SESSION MAY 15.

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EACH SIDE PLEDGED TO WORK EARNESTLY TO DESIGN A MARIANAS - U.S.
RELATIONSHIP WHICH WILL REFLECT THE DESIRE OF THE PEOPLES OF THE
MARIANAS FOR CLOSE ASSOCIATION AND WILL BE BENEFICIAL TO BOTH THE
MARIANAS AND THE UNITED STATES. IN LENGTHY WORKING SESSIONS
YESTERDAY MORNING AND AFTERNOON AND AGAIN TODAY THE DELEGATIONS HAVE
TAKEN UP THAT TASK. IN A CONSTRUCTIVE ATMOSPHERE CHARACTERIZED BY
FREE, FRANK, AND SEARCHING EXCHANGES, WE HAVE DISCUSSED THE NATURE
OF OUR FUTURE POLITICAL TIES. WE HAVE ALREADY IDENTIFIED
SUBSTANTIAL AREAS OF AGREEMENT AND ARE NOW EXAMINING SOME OF THE
MORE COMPLEX LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL ASPECTS OF THE POLITICAL
RELATIONSHIP.

BOTH DELEGATIONS PLAN TO GIVE EQUALLY INTENSIVE CONSIDERATION TO SUCH OTHER MAJOR TOPICS AS FINANCE, ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PROTECTION OF LOCAL INTERESTS IN LAND, U.S. LAND REQUIREMENTS, AND ENACTMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW STATUS AGREEMENT. THE DELEGATIONS HAVE PRELIMINARILY DISCUSSED LAND AND U.S. MILITARY REQUIREMENTS IN THE MARIANAS BUT HAVE NOT YET EXCHANGED POSITION PAPERS OF ANY KIND OF DOCUMENTATION ON THE SUBJECT. THE NATURE AND EXTENT OF THESE REQUIRMENTS IS A SUBJECT FOR

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NEGOTIATION WHICH WE EXPECT TO REVIEW IN GREAT DETAIL.
AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS MADE IT CLEAR AS EARLY AS OCTOBER OF 1971,
AT HANA, MAUI, HAWAII, THAT TO THE EXTENT FEASIBLE THE U.S. WISHES

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TO CONCENTRATE ON TINIAN ISLAND ANY MILITARY FACILITIES IT MIGHT ESTABLISH IN THE MARIANAS. AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS RESTATED THAT POSITION HERE IN SAIPAN LAST DECEMBER. THESE REQUIREMENTS ARE EXTENSIVE. BUT THE U.S. IS NOT ASKING FOR EXCLUSIVE USE OF ALL OF TINIAN. FURTHERMORE, AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS WISHES TO STATE CATEGORICALLY THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS NO PLANS WHATEVER TO GIVE THE U.S. MILITARY RESPONSIBIL TY FOR THE CIVIL ADMINISTRATION OF TINIAN, AS ALLEGED IN RECENT NEWS REPORTS.

CHAIRMAN PANGELINAN EMPHASIZED THAT THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION INCLUDES TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF TINIAN. HE STATED THAT ALL FIFTEEN MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION ARE DETERMINED TO REPRESENT AND PROTECT THE INTEREST OF ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS, INCLUDING THE PEOPLE OF TINIAN, IN THEIR STATUS

BOTH THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION AND THE U.S. DELEGATION ARE COMMITTED TO UNDERTAKE FULL CONSULTATION WITH THE

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PEOPLE OF TINIAN BEFORE ANY FINAL DECISIONS OR AGREEMENTS ARE
MADE REGARDING THE USE OF LAND ON TINIAN FOR MILITARY PURPOSES.
AFTER THIS MATTER HAS BEEN FULLY DISCUSSED IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS,
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COMMISSION AND THE U.S. DELEGATION
WILL SCHEDULE APPROPRIATE MEETINGS WITH THE PEOPLE OF TINIAN TO
DISCLOSE THESE PLAN IN DETAIL AND SOLICIT THEIR VIEWS.

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