

[Date 6/12/73]

(STATUS SEMINAR HELD)

PONAPE, JUNE 12, (NNS)---THE MORAL IMPLICATIONS OF MICRONESIA'S POLITICAL STATUS QUESTION WERE UNDER DISCUSSION LAST WEEK AT A SEMINAR HELD IN KOLONIA, THE PONAPE DISTRICT CENTER. ISSUES SUCH AS IN WHOM DOES THE RIGHT OF SEVEREIGNTY RESIDE?, THE ROLE OF ECONOMIC GROWTH IN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, AND THE COMPROMISE OF SOVEREIGNTY WERE AMONG THOSE DISCUSSED IN GREAT DETAIL.

THE PREMISE DURING THE SEMINAR WAS THAT MORAL ISSUES ARE THOSE THAT DIRECTLY AFFECT THE OVERALL HUMAN GROWTH OF A PEOPLE, WHETHER IN THE AREA OF POLITICS, ECONOMICS OR SOCIETY. PARTICIPANTS INCLUDED ELEVEN MICRONESIANS FROM THE TRUST TERRITORY HEADQUARTERS AND DISTRICT GOVERNMENTS, FROM THE
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FM HICOMTERPACIS SAIPAN
TO ZEN/ALDISTAD TERPACIS
ZEN/LNO GUAM
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RUHGSAA/USNAVINVSERVO GUAM
RUWJAJA/COMTWELVE/SAN FRAN CALIFORNIA
RUEHC/SECSTATE
RUHGSAA/SEC DEF
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RUHGSAA/CGFMPAC
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ORIGIN..PID
INFO..D/PA
INFO..BD
INFO..D/TC
INFO..SA/LA
INFO..NAVY LNO
INFO..STATUS LNO
INFO..HC
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PAGE TWO DE RUHGSAA UNCLAS
RUHGSAA/HAVFACNGCOM HDQRTS
RUHGSAA/PACDIVNCFACNGCOM
RUHGSAA/HICOMTERPACIS LNO HONO
RUHGSAA/SAMTEC/CEI VA FB CA
INFO RUAQBQA/HQ USARBCO/MACHINATO/TTPI-LNO
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UNCLAS (FINAL SECTION OF IV)
COMTWELVE PASS INFO FOR AMB WILLIAMS
SECSTATE PASS TO DEPT INT/SEC INTERIOR/DOTA/OSW
TTPI NO. 327

CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA AND FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR. FOUR
CATHOLIC JESUIT PRIESTS, A MICRONESIAN LEGAL SERVICES LAWYER,
AND A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF GUAM'S MICRONESIAN
RESEARCH CENTER MADE UP THE SIX AMERICANS WHO TOOK PART IN THE
SEMINAR.

ALL WHO PARTICIPATED FELT THE SEMINAR WAS MOST INTERESTING
AND STIMULATING, PROVIDING AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS VITALLY
IMPORTANT ISSUES. ONE PARTICIPANT NOTED THAT VERY FEW MEETINGS

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ON THE SUBJECT HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN THE IT. STATEMENTS WERE DRAFTED REFLECTING POSITIONS ON SOVEREIGNTY, FREE ASSOCIATION, AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON A POLITICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM. ALL OF THE STATEMENTS REPRESENTED MAJOR, IF NOT COMPLETE, CONSENSUS ON THE SUBJECTS.

CONCERNING SOVEREIGNTY, THE SEMINAR FOUND THAT THIS SUBJECT IS BEST DIVIDED INTO THREE ASPECTS--MORAL, LEGAL AND POLITICAL. "MORAL SOVEREIGNTY," THEY FOUND, "IS A GOD-GIVEN INALIENABLE RIGHT TO FULL CONTROL OVER ONE'S OWN TERRITORY, WITHOUT BEING SUEJECTED TO EXTERNAL RESTRAINTS. LEGAL SOVEREIGNTY IS THE RECOGNITION BY NATIONS OF THE EXISTENCE OF THEIR OWN OR OTHER'S MORAL SOVEREIGNTY. AND FINALLY, POLITICAL SOVEREIGNTY IS THE EXCERCISE OF THE POWERS OF A NATION TO ACT IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS MORAL SOVEREIGNTY."

IN ITS NINE RECOMMENDATIONS ON POLITICAL EDUCATION IN MICRONESIA, THE SEMINAR INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING: "POLITICAL EDUCATION SHOULD BE UNIVERSAL IN MICRONESIA WITH THE THRUST TOWARD THE UNSCHOOLED; POLITICAL EDUCATION IS A RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL, NOT ONLY OF GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES, BUT ALSO OF PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS, INCLUDING THE CHURCHS; AND ALL POLITICAL

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EDUCATION SHOULD STRIVE TO INCUCLATE IN THE MICRONESIANS THE SENSE OF DIGNITY, SELF-ESTEEM, AND RESPONSIBILITY."

THE PONAPE SEMINAR DID NOT ADVOCATE ANY ONE FORM OF POLITICAL STATUS OVER ANOTHER, BELIEVING THE CHOICE OF POLITICAL STATUS SHOULD BE MADE BY EVERY SINGLE MICRONESIAN. IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE SEMINAR THAT WHATEVER POLITICAL STATUS WOULD BEST PROMOTE THE GENUINE GROWTH OF THE MICRONESIANS PEOPLE WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF MICRONESIA. THE SEMINAR DID URGE THAT THE DRAFT COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION AND CRITIQUES AND DEFENSES OF IT BE TRANSLATED INTO ALL THE VERNACULAR LANGUAGES, DISTRIBUTED AND EXPLAINED AS A VEHICLE FOR POLITICAL EDUCATION OF THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA.

SEMINAR DIRECTOR FATHER FRANCIS NEZEL, S.J., SAID PROCEEDINGS OF THE SEMINAR WERE TAPE RECORDED AND WILL BE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST. A BOOKLET DESCRIBING THE PROCEEDINGS WILL ALSO BE PUBLISHED FOR PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION, HE SAID.

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