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DECLASSIFIED/RELEASED ON JUL 10 1985 UNDER PROVISIONS OF E.O. 12356 BY YNCS D.R. JOLAN, USN SPECIAL ASSISTANT, OMSN 080692

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ACTION INT-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-03 L-03 /022 W

R 130603Z JUL 73
FM CINCPACREP GUAM/TTPI
TO SECSTATE
COMTWELVE SAN FRANCISCO
JCS/SECDEF
CINCPAC
WHITE HOUSE
CINCPACREP GUAM/TTPI
USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY MANILA

C O N F I D E N T I A L
FROM STATUS LND NO. 139 C

PASS TO DEPT INTERIOR FOR OSN (ACTION) AND DOTA (INFO)
STATE FOR EA/ANP, IO/UNP, L/UNA
COMTWELVE FOR AMB WILLIAMS
DEFENSE FOR OSD/ISA
WHITE HOUSE FOR NSC

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USUN FOR AMB BENNETT
CSAF FOR PR XO (MCCARTHY)
AMEMBASSIES CANBERRA, TOKYO, MANILA FOR POL
SUBJECT: VISIT TO MICRONESIA OF TIME MAGAZINE TOKYO BUREAU CHIEF
REF: TOKYO 7683

1. MR. HERMAN NICKEL, TIME MAGAZINE TOKYO BUREAU CHIEF, VISITED THE TRUST TERRITORY JUNE 23-JULY 9 FOR PURPOSE OF RESEARCH FOR TIME FEATURE PIECE ON TT WHICH HE HOPES WILL BE PUBLISHED THIS MONTH. NICKEL VISITED ALL DISTRICTS EXCEPT MARSHALLS. HE HAD APPOINTMENTS ALONG LINES INDICATED REFTEL PLUS NUMBER OF OTHERS, TOGETHER WITH CHANCE ENCOUNTERS

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WHICH SEEM TO HAVE PROVIDED HIM WITH BROAD BACKGROUND OF CONTACTS AND INFORMATION CONCERNING PRESENT CONDITIONS IN TT, SOME PAST HISTORY AND FUTURE PROSPECTS. FOLLOWING IS RUNDOWN OF MY FAIRLY EXTENSIVE CONVERSATION WITH HIM AT CLOSE OF HIS VISIT JULY 9:
2. ON OVERALL VIEW, NICKEL COMMENTED THAT "WE'RE NOT SUCCESSFUL COLONIAL RULERS." HE SEEMED APPALLED AT "SHANTY TOWN" APPEARANCE OF DISTRICT CENTERS AND DISMAYED BY WHAT HE SAW AS A "POOR RECORD FOR THE PAST 25 YEARS." HE WAS CONCERNED WITH EXTENT OF U.S. FULFILLMENT OF OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT AND INCLINED TO FEEL THAT U.S. HAS NOT SUFFICIENTLY LIVED UP TO ITS RESPONSIBILITY FOR THOSE

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WHOM IT HAS HAD IN ITS TRUST. HE FOUND MICRONESIANS " AN ENGAGING LOT"

AND HE APPEARED WORRIED ABOUT THEIR WELFARE UNDER OUR TRUSTEESHIP. HE ALSO APPEARED TO HAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT WHAT MAY BE THEIR DESTINY UNDER A FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS AND HE WAS INCLINED TO BE SKEPTICAL AS TO VALIDITY OF U.S. MILITARY REQUIREMENTS IN THE AREA.
3. ON GENERAL MATTER OF PUBLIC LAND, NICKEL FELT AN URGENT NEED FOR ITS

RETURN TO MICRONESIANS. ALTHOUGH I WENT OVER WITH HIM SOME DETAILS OF THE COMPLEXITY OF THE SUBJECT, HE WAS CLEARLY INCLINED TO FEEL WE SHOULD DO IT NOW, THUS REMOVING HARSH IRRITANT IN U.S. -MICRONESIAN RELATIONS

AND GIVING MICRONESIANS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF WORKING OUT THEIR PART OF THE PROBLEM.
4. NICKEL MET A WIDE RANGE OF PEOPLE. EXECUTIVE BRANCH CONTACTS INCLUDED THE HIGH COMMISSIONER, CHIEF JUSTICE, SEVERAL DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICERS AND DISTADS. CONGRESSMEN WHOM HE MET INCLUDED SENATORS SALII, AMARAICH, NAKAYAMA AND PANGELINAN AND CONGRESSMAN POLYCARP BASILIUS.
HE ALSO TALKED WITH PEACE CORPS REPRESENTATIVES AND WITH MICRONESIAN LEGAL SERVICES. HE TOOK NUMEROUS PHOTOGRAPHS, COLLECTED VOLUMINOUS DOCUMENTS, INCLUDING U.N. TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL STATEMENTS AND MINUTES

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AND WAS VIGOROUS IN HIS PURSUIT OF INFORMATION AND ATTITUDES.

5. IT MAY BE RELEVANT TO NOTE THAT MY FINAL AND LONGEST CONVERSATION WITH MR. NICKEL TOOK PLACE ONLY SHORTLY AFTER HE HAD HAD AN APPOINTMENT

WITH MICRONESIAN LEGAL SERVICES' DIRECTOR, TED MITCHELL, FROM WHOM HE HAD CLEARLY RECEIVED SOME RATHER UNFAVORABLE REPORTS, DURING HIS VISIT

IN THE TT NICKEL BECAME AWARE OF WIDE RANGING SUPPORT IN TT FOR SUSPENDED PUBLIC DEFENDER ROGER ST. PIERRE. IN TALKING WITH ME NICKEL RAISED QUESTION AS TO WHETHER TT ADMINISTRATION REALIZED THE EXTENT OF

THE "PASSIONATE FEELING THROUGHOUT MICRONESIA IN SUPPORT OF ST. PIERRE."

NICKEL FELT THAT A REAL CONFRONTATION WAS BREWING AND HIS TALK WITH ST PIERRE ON WHOM HE CALLED HAD LED HIM TO FEEL THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD BE WELL ADVISED FOR POLITICAL REASONS TO TAKE MORE FLEXIBLE APPROACH IN THE CASE.

6. MR. NICKEL'S COMMENTS TO ME WITH RESPECT TO THE SEVERAL DISTRICTS HE

VISITED WERE AS FOLLOWS:

A. TRUK: NICKEL DETECTED NO STRONG INDEPENDENCE SENTIMENT. HE FELT RATHER A GENERAL RECOGNITION OF THE FACT OF INTER-DEPENDENCE IN MODERN WORLD AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF MICRONESIA'S CONTINUING

NEED FOR OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE. HE MET SENATOR NAKAYAMA AND WAS PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED WITH SENATOR ANDON AMARAICH WITH WHOM HE SHARED

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A SEAT ON THE PLANE ON ONE SECTOR OF HIS FLIGHT.

B. PONAPE: MR. NICKEL WAS SURPRISED TO NOTE THE ACTIVITY OF THE JESUIT

MISSION WHICH HE LEARNED HAD RECENTLY CONDUCTED A POLITICAL SCIENCE SEMINAR IN PONAPE AND WAS SOON TO DO AN ECONOMIC SEMINAR ON TRUK AS

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WELL. HE WENT TO FATHER COSTIGAN'S SCHOOL (PATS), WAS IMPRESSED WITH ITS SITE AND APPEARANCE, BUT WITH SCHOOL ON VACATION FACULTY MEMBERS WERE NOT AVAILABLE, INCLUDING FATHER COSTIGAN WHO WAS ABSENT IN THE PHILIPPINES.

C. PALAU: NICKEL FOUND THIS DISTRICT PARTICULARLY INTERESTING AS TO POLITICAL VIEWS AND ACTIVITIES. ON THE SUBJECT OF LAND HE MET THE USUAL ARGUMENT TO THE EFFECT THAT WE PALAUANS (CHIEFS) KNOW OUR OWN BOUNDARIES; GIVE OUR LANDS BACK TO US NOW. IN HIS CONVERSATION WITH DISTRICT LEGISLATURE SPEAKER LUII, NICKEL FOUND LUII PRINCIPALLY CONCERNED WITH KEEPING THE CHIEFS FROM SUCCEEDING IN THEIR MOVE TO ESTABLISH A BICAMERAL LEGISLATURE, THEREBY ACQUIRING A VOICE AS WELL AS A VOICE. ON GENERAL ATTITUDES TOWARD FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS HE FOUND SUPPORT FOR POSSIBLE SEPARATISM. FEELING WAS EXPRESSED IN EFFECT

"IF ANOTHER DISTRICT CAN GO ITS SEPARATE WAY, SO CAN WE."
NICKEL HAD SEVERAL TALKS WITH "FRIENDS OF MICRONESIA" ACTIVIST FRANCISCO ULUDONG, WHOM HE DESCRIBED SOMEWHAT PARADOXICALLY AS BEING

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"SO AMERICAN." COMMENTING ON ULUDONG'S NEW BUSINESS OF SUPPLYING BOATS

FOR TOURIST USE, NICKEL REMARKED "CISCO'S NEW KICK IS TO BECOME A CAPITALIST." ADDITIONALLY HE HAS A JOB, ACCORDING TO NICKEL, WITH THE DISTRICT MARINE RESOURCES OFFICE. HE TOLD NICKEL THAT HE PLANS TO GO TO JAPAN IN AUGUST TO ESTABLISH CHAPTERS OF THE FRIENDS OF MICRONESIA THERE. NICKEL DID NOT MEET CISCO'S BROTHER, MOSES ULUDONG, WHO WAS IN KOROR BUSY PUTTING

HIS NEWSPAPER (TIA BELAU) TO BED. (COMMENT: FINANCIAL RESOURCES, PRESUMABLY TOM GLADWIN, BEHIND FRIENDS OF MICRONESIA ARE APPARENTLY ENABLING IT TO STAY IN BUSINESS AND EXPAND.)

IN LOOKING INTO EDUCATION IN PALAU, NICKEL SAID HE WAS SOMEWHAT SURPRISED TO CALL ON THE CURRICULUM DIRECTOR AND FIND HIM TO BE AN AMERICAN JESUIT PRIEST.

NICKEL WAS STRUCK BY THE NUMBER AND STOCK OF SHOPS IN KOROR AND WITH THE QUANTITY AND VARIETY OF JAPANESE GOODS WHICH THEY HAD TO OFFER. HE FOUND KEEN DESIRE THAT PALAU SHOULD BE A PORT OF ENTRY WITH INTERNATIONAL AIR TRAFFIC TO OPERATE FROM IT.

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NICKEL TRIED TO MEET SENATOR TMETUHL BUT LEARNED THAT, LIKE
SENATOR SALII (WHOM HE LATER MET ON SAIPAN) HE WAS OFF-ISLAND. HE DID
MEET RECENTLY ACTING IREDUL GLORIA GIBBONS BUT WAS UNSUCCESSFUL IN
MEETING HER BROTHER, IBEDUL-ELECT YUKATA GIBBONS WHO, HAVING RETURNED
TO TAKE UP HIS CHIEFLY POSITION, IS NOW IN RETREAT UNDERGOING REQUIRED

INSTRUCTION FOR HIS ROLE.

NICKEL EXPRESSED DOUBTS ABOUT U.S. LAND REQUIREMENTS OF BABELTHUAP,
OBSERVING THAT THE REQUIREMENT WAS FOR A MANEUVER AREA, HE SAID HE
ASSUMED THAT THIS MEANT USE BY U.S. MARINES AND WONDERED IF THIS
MEANT A PULL BACK FROM OKINAWA. IF SO, HE OBSERVED, THIS RAISED SIGNI-

FICANT IMPLICATIONS FOR THE JAPANESE. HIS GENERAL PREDICTION WITH
RESPECT TO U.S. RELATIONS IN PALAU WAS AS HE EXPRESSED IT "WE'RE GOING

TO FACE MUCH MORE POLITICAL DIFFICULTY IN PALAU THAN ON TINIAN."
D. MARIANAS: NICKEL'S COMMENTS FOCUSED ON U.S. MILITARY REQUIREMENTS
ON TINIAN WHERE HE SPENT PART OF JULY 4TH. AS REPORTED STATUS LNO 138C,

HE SAID HE FELT GENERAL SENTIMENT TO BE "YES, WE WANT U.S. MILITARY,
BUT THEY ARE ASKING FOR AN AWFUL LOT." HE SAID THIS VIEW WAS EXPRESSED

TO HIM EVEN BY JOE CRUZ WHO KEEPS BIG SIGN OF WELCOME TO MILITARY IN
HIS STORE WINDOW. NICKEL EXPRESSED DOUBTS AS TO THE ACTUAL NEED FOR
BIG U.S. BASE ON TINIAN. OBSERVING PROXIMITY OF EXTENSIVE U.S. FACILI-

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TIES ON GUAM, HE SAID HE FOUND IT HARD TO SEE WHY ADDITIONAL ELABORATE

INSTALLATION WAS NEEDED.

HE WAS INTERESTED IN GUAM/NORTHERN MARIANAS RELATIONS AND THOUGHT
THERE WOULD PROBABLY BE A GOOD DEAL OF TRAVEL AND GROWING CONTACTS
BETWEEN THE TWO AREAS WHICH ARE FEELING THEIR WAY UNDER NEW CONDITIONS.

7. COMMENT: MR. NICKEL IS CLEARLY AN EXPERIENCED, COMPETENT AND PEN-

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ETRATING REPORTER, HE ASKED PERCEPTIVE QUESTIONS AND LISTENED WITH APPARENT INTEREST AND FREQUENT NOTE-TAKING TO COMMENTS AND EXPOSITION IN REPLY. HIS OWN CHARACTERIZATION OF HIS PROSPECTIVE STORY ON THE TT WILL PROBABLY PROVE QUITE ACCURATE, NAMELY, THAT IT WILL NOT FULLY PLEASE ANYBODY. HE SEES THE TT AS AN AREA OF GEO-POLITICAL IMPORTANCE AND GREAT BEAUTY, SUFFERING FROM HERITAGE OF THE PAST AND UNCERTAIN WHAT THE FUTURE HAS IN STORE. HE IS SUBSTANTIALLY CONCERNED WITH THE UN TRUSTEESHIP ASPECT OF THE PICTURE AND THE EXTENT TO WHICH WE ARE FULFILLING OUR RESPONSIBILITY. IN THIS CONNECTION HE EXPECTED TO PURSUE HIS RESEARCH INTO THE FACTORS THAT MADE THIS AND HAVE KEPT IT A STRATEGIC TRUST TERRITORY AND TO LOOK FURTHER AT OUR ANNOUNCED MILITARY REQUIREMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THIS ASPECT. TRENT
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