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ZCZC HSA38/27/LK SZA SAA SGA
ZNR UUUUU
PR 270637Z [REDACTED] ZNZ1
FM HICOMTERPACIS SAIPAN
TO ZEN/ALDISTAD TERPACIS
ZEN/LNO GUAM
RUHGSAA/LNO KWAJ
RUHGSAA/COMNAVMARIANAS
RUHGSAA/CINCPAC
RUHGSAA/CINCPACREPGUAM/TTPI
RUHGSAA/USNAVINSERVO GUAM
RUMJAJA/COMTWELVE/SAN FRAN CALIFORNIA
RUHHC/SECSTATE
RUHGSAA/SEC DEF
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RUHGSAA/CHINFO
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PAGE TWO DE RUHGSAA UNCLAS
RUHGSAA/NAVFACN3COM HDQRTS
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(SECTION I OF III)
UNCLAS PASS INFO FOR AMB WILLIAMS
SECSTATE PASS TO DEPT INT/SEC INTERIOR/DOIA/OSN
TIPI NO. 468

(COMSN ANSWERS CHARGES)

SAIPAN, [REDACTED] (MNS)---THE OFFICE OF THE MICRONESIAN
STATUS NEGOTIATIONS (COMSN) HAS RELEASED A STATEMENT IN RESPONSE
TO THE CONGRESS NEWS RELEASE LAST WEEK CONCERNING POLITICAL
EDUCATION IN THE TRUST TERRITORY. THE FOLLOWING IS THE
STATEMENT:

THE OFFICE OF THE MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS REGRETS
THE CHARGES MADE TO THE MICRONESIAN PRESS LAST WEEK THAT THE
UNITED STATES IS DELIBERATELY WITHHOLDING A PROGRAM OF POLITICAL
EDUCATION FOR MICRONESIA. THESE CHARGES ARE APPARENTLY BASED ON
MISUNDERSTANDINGS FLOWING FROM A LACK OF FULL AND ACCURATE

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INFORMATION ON THE MATTER.

THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AGREES WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS (JCFS) THAT THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA SHOULD KNOW ALL THE FACTS IN THE MATTER AND THE FACTS ARE--THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS NOT SUPPRESSING A POLITICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR MICRONESIA. SEVERAL WEEKS AGO, THE OMSN DID RECEIVE A DRAFT RADIO TRANSCRIPT WRITTEN BY THE FORMER STAFF DIRECTOR OF THE JCFS FROM THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER.

AT THE REQUEST OF THE HICOM, OMSN IS NOW REVIEWING THE CONTENTS OF THE SCRIPT WHICH DISCUSSES THE PROGRESS OF STATUS NEGOTIATIONS AND DEFINES VARIOUS STATUS ALTERNATIVES. THE REVIEW WILL BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF THE MONTH AND FORWARDED TO THE HICOM WITH OMSN'S COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JCFS WAS INFORMED TWO WEEKS AGO THAT THIS REVIEW WAS UNDERWAY.

A COVERING MEMO WHICH ACCOMPANIED THE SCRIPT SENT TO THE HICOM BY ITS AUTHOR STATED THAT THE "FINAL REVIEW AND APPROVAL (OF THE SCRIPT) RESTS WITH THE TRUST TERRITORY POLITICAL EDUCATION COMMISSION YET TO BE APPOINTED AND ORGANIZED." GIVEN THE CONTINUING ABSENCE OF ANY SUCH POLITICAL EDUCATION COMMISSION, IT IS DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND THE CHARGES OF DELAY OR

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SUPPRESSION LEVELED AT THE OMSN. CERTAINLY, IT HAS NEVER BEEN THE INTENT OF THIS OFFICE TO DELAY OR DENY ACCESS TO THE RADIO SCRIPT BY THE MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA AND SUCH IS NOT THE INTENT NOW.

FAR FROM SUPPRESSING A PROGRAM OF POLITICAL EDUCATION FOR MICRONESIA, OMSN HAS ALWAYS RECOGNIZED THAT SUCH A PROGRAM IS ESSENTIAL. SUPPORT WILL CONTINUE TO BE GIVEN FOR THE FORMATION OF A POLITICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM THAT GIVES AN OBJECTIVE, UNBIASED PRESENTATION OF THE POLITICAL STATUS ISSUES CONFRONTING MICRONESIA.

FURTHERMORE, OMSN FULLY INTENDS TO ENCOURAGE () SUPPORT COOPERATIVE EFFORTS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE MICRONESIANS WITH ACCURATE AND COMPLETE INFORMATION ON THE ENTIRE RANGE OF QUESTIONS RELATED TO THEIR FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS. AMBASSADOR F. HAYDEN WILLIAMS, THE PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR STATUS NEGOTIATIONS, HAS IN FACT DISCUSSED SUCH EFFORTS WITH JCFS CHAIRMAN SALII AND CO-CHAIRMAN SILK AND PLANS TO RAISE THE SUBJECT AGAIN IN FUTURE MEETINGS WITH THOSE OFFICIALS.
(CALL USERS PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)

SAIPAN, AUGUST 27---(CONGRESS RELEASE)---SAYING THAT IT WAS

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A "SMOOTHLY WORDED ATTEMPT TO DISARM" THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA, SENATOR LAZARUS SALII TODAY COMMENTED ON A DISPATCH RECEIVED IN SAIPAN FROM THE OFFICE OF MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS (OMSN).

THE DISPATCH WAS IN RESPONSE TO AN EARLIER NEWS RELEASE FROM THE CONGRESS IN WHICH SENATOR SALII CHARGED THAT THE OMSN IS "DELIBERATELY WITHHOLDING" A POLITICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM FROM THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA.

THE OMSN DISPATCH SAYS THAT THE SENATOR'S STATEMENT WAS BASED ON A MISUNDERSTANDING.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS, HOWEVER COMMENDED. "THERE WAS NO MISUNDERSTANDING. THE SITUATION IS VERY CLEAR TO ME. THE CONGRESS AND THE JOINT COMMITTEE WERE NEVER PARTY TO ANY AGREEMENT THAT THIS MATERIAL WOULD BE REVIEWED BY OMSN."

IN ADDITION TO THIS, HE SAID THAT HIS EARLIER STATEMENT HAD SUCCEEDED IN ITS GOAL. "THEIR STATEMENT MAKES IT CLEAR THEY HAVE TAKEN WELL OVER ONE MONTH TO REVIEW A TAPE OF A FEW MINUTES' LENGTH. TO ME, THIS SAYS THAT THEY HAVE BEEN SITTING ON IT. IF THEY ARE AS ANXIOUS TO START A POLITICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM AS THEY SAY THEY ARE, THEN WHY THE LONG DELAY?"

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TO THE STATEMENT THAT HE HAD BEEN NOTIFIED ABOUT THE REVIEW TWO WEEKS EARLIER, HE SAID THAT HE HAD IN FACT HAD KNOWN ABOUT THE HOLDING OF THE BOOKLET AND TAPES IN WASHINGTON BEFORE

THIS, BUT HAD WAITED BEFORE SAYING ANYTHING IN THE HOPES THAT THE MATERIAL WOULD SOON BE RETURNED AND SENT OUT TO THE DISTRICTS.

"BUT WHEN I HEARD THE COMMENTS OF ONE OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE OMSN, I FELT IT WAS TIME FOR THE PEOPLE TO KNOW ABOUT IT. WHAT THIS PERSON SAID WAS THAT THE TRUST TERRITORY PUBLIC AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT, TO PUT IT MILDLY WAS NOT VERY SMART TO HAVE ATTEMPTED SUCH A PROGRAM."

THE JOINT COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN THEN CONTACTED A HIGH OFFICIAL OF THE TRUST TERRITORY WHO CONFIRMED THAT HE HAD BEEN TOLD POLITICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS WOULD COME FROM WASHINGTON AND NOT SAIPAN, IN THE FUTURE.

WHILE SENATOR SALII WELCOMED THE PART OF THE DISPATCH WHICH INDICATED THAT AMBASSADOR FRANKLIN H. WILLIAMS WOULD BE WILLING TO DISCUSS POLITICAL EDUCATION EFFORTS IN THE FUTURE, HE WAS HIGHLY CRITICAL OF THE STATEMENTS IMPLYING THAT OMSN HAS ALWAYS RECOGNIZED THE NEED FOR SUCH A PROGRAM.

"THEY MAY HAVE RECOGNIZED IT, BUT THEY NEVER DID ANYTHING

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ZEN/LNO GUAM
RUHGSAA/LNO KWAJ
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RUEHC/SECSTATE
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PAGE TWO DE RUHGSAA UNCLAS
RUHGSAA/HAVFACNGCOM HDORTS
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UNCLAS (SECTION II OF III)
COMTWELVE PASS INFO FOR AMB WILLIAMS
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ABOUT IT," COMMENTED SALII. "FURTHERMORE THEY CLAIM NOT TO HAVE
DRAGGED THEIR FEET ON POLITICAL EDUCATION, WHICH MINIMIZES THE
FACT THAT THE TRUST TERRITORY HAS NEGLECTED ITS ROLE IN POLITICAL
EDUCATION FOR THE PAST QUARTER OF A CENTURY," HE ADDED.

"THE DISPATCH IS A SMOOTHLY WORDED ATTEMPT TO DISARM
AND MISLEAD THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA. IT SPEAKS ABOUT AN
OBJECTIVE AND UNBIASED POLITICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM. WHAT
THAT MEANS IS ANYBODY'S GUESS. IF PAST EXPERIENCE IS ANY GUIDE,
IT MEANS FAVORABLE TO THE UNITED STATES POSITION."

"THE OFFICE OF MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS GOT CAUGHT

PAGE THREE DE RUMGSAA UNCLAS
RED-HANDED AND THEY ARE TRYING TO SMOOTH THINGS OVER. LIKE A
PLAIN WOMAN, THEY ARE TRYING TO USE MAKE-UP TO PUT FORWARD THEIR
BEST FACE. I DON'T THINK, HOWEVER, THAT THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA
ARE GOING TO BE FOOLED BY MAKE-UP, THEY HAVE SEEN THE PLAIN
FACE OF THE UNITED STATES TOO MANY TIMES."

"MY EARLIER STATEMENT HAS SERVED ITS PURPOSE IF THE PEOPLE
HAVE BEEN MADE AWARE OF WHAT IS GOING ON. MY ONLY OTHER STATEMENT
AT THIS TIME IS THAT I AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF CONGRESS ARE
WATCHING VERY CLOSELY TO WHAT HAPPENS TO THIS MATERIAL WHEN IT
IS RETURNED TO SAIPAN," HE CONCLUDED.

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