

FROM: CINCPACREP GUAM/TTPI GUAM MARIANAS ISLANDS

TO: SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC

COMTWELVE SAN FRANCISCO CA

WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC

JCS WASHINGTON DC

SECDEF WASHINGTON DC

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

US MISSION TO UN NEW YORK NY

FROM STATUS LNO 192C

PASS INTERIOR FOR OMSN ACTION

PASS INTERIOR FOR DOTA INFO

COMTWELVE FOR AMB WILLIAMS

WHITE HOUSE FOR NSC

STATE FOR EA/ANP, IO/UNP

DEFENSE FOR OSD/ISA, CSAF FOR PR XO

USUN FOR AMB WHITE

SUBJECT: MPSC MEMBER COMMENTS ON MARIANAS STATUS NEGOTIATIONS

1. (C) WHEN I CALLED ON MPSC MEMBER DANNY MUNA NOVEMBER 6 TO HAND HIM COPY OF USG PUBLIC LAND POLICY STATEMENT AND BACKGROUNDER, I TOOK OCCASION TO ASK HIM ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS PERTAINING TO MARIANAS STATUS NEGOTIATIONS.

2. (C) MUNA SAID CHAIRMAN PANGELINAN HAS CALLED A MEETING FOR MPSC MEMBERS NOVEMBER 26 IN SAIPAN AND HAS GIVEN ASSIGNMENT THAT BY THAT DATE MEMBERS SHOULD HAVE STUDIED MATERIAL FORWARDED BY MPSC CONSULTANTS. TURNING TO A THICK FILE OF PAPERS ON HIS DESK MUNA SAID IT WAS STUDY ON ECONOMICS AND FINANCE RECENTLY RECEIVED FROM CONSULTANT LEONARD.

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HE REVEALED NONE OF ITS CONTENTS, BUT COMMENTED THAT STUDY WAS "VERY HEAVY GOING."

3. (C) MUNA SAID HE THOUGHT ONLY REAL PROBLEM WHICH WILL ARISE IN COURSE OF FORTHCOMING SESSION WILL BE TINIAN. "WHY DON'T YOU JUST USE PAGAN INSTEAD?" HE QUERIED. "THERE'S ALMOST NOBODY UP THERE AND IT'S FARTHER FROM GUAM." HE SAYS THERE IS CONSIDERABLE OPINION, WHICH HE SHARES, TO EFFECT THAT U.S. IS ASKING FOR TOO MUCH ON TINIAN AND THAT LEASEBACK ARRANGEMENT IS UNACCEPTABLE. PEOPLE FEEL THAT UNDER LEASE ARRANGEMENT THEY WOULD HAVE NO PROTECTION AND NO PERMANENCY, HE SAID. THEY WANT TO BE ABLE TO HOLD TITLE TO LAND. MUNA ALSO SAID MOST RESIDENTS OF SAN JOSE DO NOT WANT TO SEE VILLAGE MOVED. SOME, HOWEVER, HAVE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN MOVING TO SAIPAN AND HAVE ASKED IF AN AREA ON SAIPAN MIGHT BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THEM.

4. (C) ASKED ABOUT EFFECT OF TWO NEW MEMBERS ON MPSC, MUNA SAID JOE CRUZ OF TINIAN IS CLEARLY IN FAVOR OF U.S. MILITARY ON TINIAN, WELCOMING THE PROSPECT OF ECONOMIC BENEFITS INVOLVED. AS FOR ADVENT OF PEDRO (PETE) TENORIO, MUNA SAID "IT IS BETTER TO HAVE HIM ON THE COMMITTEE THAN STANDING OUTSIDE CRITICIZING." MUNA SAID TENORIO WOULD BE ADVISED ANYWAY BY HIS RELATIVE AND PREDECESSOR JOE TENORIO, BUT THAT IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA FOR PETE TO FIND OUT AT FIRST HAND SOMETHING OF THE RESPONSIBILITY INVOLVED IN MAKING DECISIONS THAT WILL GOVERN MARIANAS FUTURE.

5. (C) MUNA SPOKE ADMIRINGLY OF AMERICAN SAMOA FROM WHICH HE HAS JUST RETURNED HAVING ATTENDED CONFERENCE OF PACIFIC ISLANDS LEGISLATORS. I CONGRATULATED HIM ON HIS ELECTION AS PRESIDENT OF THIS BODY, AN HONOR WHICH HAS OBVIOUSLY PLEASED HIM. HE WAS PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED WITH THE EDUCATION SYSTEM IN AMERICAN SAMOA AND FELT IT DISTINCTLY SUPERIOR TO THAT IN THE TT. "THOSE SAMOAN KIDS CAN REALLY READ AND DO THEIR

ARITHMETIC," HE COMMENTED.

6. (C) COMMENT: MUNA'S RECENT TRAVEL AND NEW POSITION APPEAR TO HAVE STRENGTHENED HIS AWARENESS OF RESPONSIBILITY INVOLVED IN MPSC WORK. AS CHAIRMAN OF SUB-COMMITTEE ON LAND HE, OF COURSE, HOLDS A KEY POSITION.

7. (C) I AM TOLD THAT ALL MEMBERS OF MARIANAS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE EXCEPT FOR PRESIDENT SANTOS AND ONE OTHER MADE TRIP TO PAGO PAGO FOR THE LEGISLATORS' CONFERENCE. FROM WHAT I GATHER THEY CAME HOME IMPRESSED WITH WHAT THEY HAD SEEN OF LONG-TIME U.S. PRESENCE AND GOVERNMENT, - VIEW WHICH MAY HAVE HELPFUL REPERCUSSIONS HERE.

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