

11/11/73
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(LAND AGREEMENTS SEEN)

WASHINGTON, D. C., NOVEMBER 15 (MNS)---WITH EXPRESSIONS OF OPTIMISM ABOUT A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME FROM ACHIEVEMENTS OF BOTH DELEGATIONS THE SEVENTH ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS ON THE FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS OF THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS FORMALLY OPENS WITH A PLENARY SESSION WEDNESDAY (NOV. 14) IN WASHINGTON D. C.

THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS HEADED BY SENATOR LAZARUS SALII OF PALAU AND THE UNITED STATES NEGOTIATING TEAM HEADED BY PRESIDENT NIXON'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE TO THE TALKS, AMBASSADOR FRANKLIN HADYN WILLIAMS SAT DOWN AT A LARGE TABLE IN THE CONFERENCE

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ROOM OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR BUILDING JUST A FEW BLOCKS FROM THE WHITE HOUSE TO BEGIN PUTTING THE FINISHING TOUCHES ON THE DRAFT COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION.

IT IS AN AGREEMENT THAT HOPEFULLY WILL PROVE ACCEPTABLE TO THE MICRONESIAN PEOPLE BRINGING AN END THE UNITED NATIONS TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT UNDER WHICH THE ISLANDS OF THE TRUST TERRITORY HAVE BEEN ADMINISTERED BY THE UNITED STATES FOR MORE THAN 26 YEARS. IT IS MORE THAN A YEAR SINCE THE DELEGATIONS LAST MET IN FORMAL SESSION AT BARBERS POINT HAWAII IN OCTOBER 1972. A MAJOR OBSTACLE TO RESUMPTION OF THE TALKS DURING THAT PERIOD WAS TAKEN CARE OF IN WASHINGTON TUESDAY WITH MICRONESIAN AGREEMENT DURING THE CLOSED MEETING WITH THE U.S. DELEGATION TO THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF THE U.S. STATEMENT CONCERNING THE RETURN OF PUBLIC LAND.

IN ESSENCE, SAID AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS IN HIS OPENING STATEMENT WEDNESDAY, "AFTER AN INTERMINABLE PERIOD OF WAITING STRETCHING BACK OVER THE YEARS INDEED THE CENTURIES, MICRONESIANS NOW HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY AND THE RESPONSIBILITY TO CONTROL, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR OWN LAWS AND CUSTOMS THE MOST PRECIOUS COMMODITY OF ALL IN MICRONESIA---LAND. IF SELF-GOVERNMENT CAN

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CAN BE DEFINE AS THE INDIVIDUAL'S RIGHT TO MAKE DECISIONS ON THOSE MATTERS WHICH CONCERN HIM MOST DIRECTLY AND IN GREATEST SALIENCE FOR HIS SOCIETY TO THE MICRONESIAN CONTROL OVER THEIR PUBLIC LAND MUST BE CONSIDERED AS NOTHING MORE THAN AN ENORMOUS STEP IN THE DIRECTION OF SELF-GOVERNMENT."

MEETING WITH THE MICRONESIAN DELEGATION AS THOUGH THE AMERICAN POLICY TO BE "ACCEPTABLE" SENATOR SALII SAID, "NOW THAT THE LAND QUESTION IS OUT OF THE WAY, THE TASK BEFORE US IS TO COMPLETE DRAFTING THE COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION. THERE IS NO REASON THAT THIS TASK CANNOT BE COMPLETED IN A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME. BOTH SIDES HAVE HAD MORE THAN ONE YEAR TO FORMULATE THEIR POSITION ON THE REMAINING ISSUES OF FINANCE AND TERMINATION. OUR DRAFTING COMMITTEE IS PREPARED TO MEET WITH HOURS IMMEDIATELY AFTER THIS MORNING'S SESSION TO BEGIN THAT TASK," HE TOLD THE U.S. NEGOTIATORS.

AND THE DRAFTING COMMITTEES DID BEGIN THEIR WORK IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE BRIEF FORMAL OPENING. BY WEDNESDAY EVENING OFFICIAL POSITION PAPERS OF BOTH SIDES HAVE BEEN EXCHANGE COVERING THE REMAINING PORTIONS OF THE DRAFT COMPACT DEALING WITH FINANCE AND TERMINATION. THE TWO SIDES THEN CAUCUS SEPARATELY TO

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PREPARE RESPONSES EXPECTED TO BE PRESENTED WHEN THE DRAFTING COMMITTEES PRESUMED THEIR WORK EARLY THURSDAY MORNING.

THERE IS NO INDICATION HOW SOON THE NEXT PLENARY SESSION MIGHT BE, NOR IS THERE ANY FIRM ESTIMATE OF HOW LONG THE SEVENTH ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS MIGHT LAST. BUT SENATOR SALII GAVE AN INDICATION THAT THE WORK MIGHT BE COMPLETED RATHER RAPIDLY AT THE CONCLUSION OF HIS OPENING STATEMENT. "I DO NOT FIND THIS GREAT CAPITAL CITY OBJECTIONABLE IN ANY GREAT RESPECT," HE TOLD THE AMERICANS, "BUT YOUR WEATHER IS A BIT TOO COLD FOR OUR WARM BLOOD. YOU CAN THEREFORE BE ASSURED THAT OUR DELEGATION IS PREPARED TO WIND UP THIS SESSION IN THE SHORTEST AMOUNT OF TIME POSSIBLE FOR SEVERAL REASONS."

WASHINGTON TEMPERATURES HAVE BEEN IN THE THIRTYS AND FORTYS SINCE THE MICRONESIANS ARRIVED. WEDNESDAY'S WEATHER IN FACT WAS THE WARMEST IN MORE THAN A WEEK AS MIDDAY'S TEMPERATURE ROSE TO THE LOW SEVENTYS, MUCH MORE TO THE LIKING OF THE VISITORS FROM TROPICAL MICRONESIA.

(TEXT OF AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS)

WASHINGTON, D.DC., NOV. 15 (MNS)---HERE ARE THE COMPLETE TEXT OF THE OPENING STATEMENTS DELIVERED TO BEGIN THE SEVENTH ROUND

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OF MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS WEDNESDAY (NOV. 14) IN WASHINGTON D.C. THE STATEMENT OF AMBASSADOR F. HAYDN WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT NIXON'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE TO THE MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS WAS DELIVERED FIRST.

"AS WE OPEN THIS SEVENTH ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS ON MICRONESIA'S FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS THE U.S. DELEGATION RENEWED ITS COMMITMENT TO CONTINUE TO WORK WITH YOU FAITHFULLY AND CONSTRUCTIVELY TO DEVELOP A STATUS AGREEMENT WHICH WILL BE IN THE MUTUAL INTEREST OF MICRONESIA AND THE UNITED STATES. OUR TWO DELEGATIONS HAVE ALREADY TRAVELED A LONG ROAD TOWARD A SATISFACTORY FINAL AGREEMENT. I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT AS WE LABORED TOGETHER PURPOSEFULLY IN THE DAYS AHEAD WE WILL MAKE FURTHER SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS TOWARD THIS COMMON OBJECTIVES.

"AT BARBERS POINT A LITTLE OVER A YEAR AGO WE JOINTLY DECIDED THAT A PAUSE IN THE TALKS WOULD BE APPROPRIATE. IT WAS FELT THAT A TIME WAS NEEDED TO ENABLE EACH DELEGATION TO RE-EXAMINED ITS POSITION IN ORDER TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE PREMISES WHICH HAD INITIALLY PROMPTED IT TO EMBARK ON A JOINT EFFORT TO CONSTRUCT THE COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION REMAINED VALID AND ASSUMING THAT THE ANSWER WAS AFFIRMATIVE TO PREPARE ADEQUATELY
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FOR THE FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS REQUIRED TO BRING THIS TALKS TO FRUITION.

"THIS PAUSE HAS BEEN LONGER THAN PERHAPS EITHER SIDE HAD ORIGINALLY ANTICIPATED. ITS LENGTH WAS OCCASIONED BY CIRCUMSTANCES UNFORSEEN AT BARBERS POINT RELATING INITIALLY TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE'S UNDERSTANDABLE NEED FOR TIME TO RECONSTITUTE ITS

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 MEMBERSHIP FOLLOWING THE NOVEMBER 1972 ELECTIONS TO THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA. AND THEN SUBSEQUENTLY, TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE'S DESIRE TO HAVE THE U.S. CONSIDER PRIOR TO THE RESUMPTION OF THIS NEGOTIATIONS A COMPLICATED ISSUE NOT DIRECTLY RELATED TO FUTURE STATUS YET OF CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO EVERY MICRONESIAN--THAT IS LAND , AND THE EARLY TRANSFER OR RETURN OF TITLE TO LOCAL MICRONESIAN ENTITY.

"THE PAUSE HERE HAS NOT BEEN WASTED. IT HAS IN FACT PRODUCE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN MOVING THE MICRONESIAN PEOPLE SEVERAL STEPS CLOSER TO SELF-GOVERNMENT. AND THAT OF COURSE IS IN A FUNDAMENTAL SENSE WHAT THESE NEGOTIATIONS ARE ALL ABOUT. DURING THE PAST YEAR MEMBERS OF THE TWO DELEGATIONS HAVE DISCUSSED INFORMALLY WITH EACH OTHER AND WITH THE TT ADMINISTRATION AND ELEMENTS OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, ISSUES GERMANE TO MICRONESIA'S TRANSITION TO SELF-GOVERNMENT. THESE DISCUSSIONS HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO CRITICAL DECISIONS BEARING DIRECTLY ON MICRONESIA'S MOVE TOWARD SELF-DETERMINATION AND SELF-GOVERNMENT.

"IN THIS REGARD I WOULD LIKE TO COMMENT BRIEFLY ON THREE IMPORTANT RECENT ACTION. FIRST, POLITICAL EDUCATION. IT IS APPARENT THAT AN EXPANDED OBJECTIVES, EDUCATIONAL, AND

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 INFORMATIONAL PROGRAM IS ESSENTIAL TO PREPARE THE MICRONESIAN PEOPLE PERFORM RESPONSIVELY AND IN THEIR OWN INTEREST THE ACT OF SELF-DETERMINATION WHICH THEY WILL ULTIMATELY BE ASKED TO EXERCISE. WE THEREFORE WELCOME THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S ANNOUNCEMENT IN OCTOBER OF A MAJOR NEW PROGRAM OF EDUCATION FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS PROGRAM IS A MAJOR, TIMELY AND INDEED ESSENTIAL STEP IN PREPARING FURTHER THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA FOR THEIR ESSENTIAL FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR GOVERNING THEIR OWN AFFAIRS. IT DESEVES ENCOURAGEMENT AND SUPPORT AND IN THIS REGARD I HAVE FULLY ENDORSED THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR'S REQUEST TO THE U.S. CONGRESS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY FUNDS FOR AN AUGMENTED PROGRAM.

"THE SECOND MAJOR AREA OF IMPORTANT DECISION TAKEN IN THE INTERIM SINCE BARBERS POINT CONCERN THE SUBJECT OF OUR MEETING YESTERDAY, LAND. THERE IS NO NECESSITY FOR ME TO RECLAIMED GROUND ALREADY COVERED. HOWEVER IN THE CONTEXT OF MY BRIEF REVIEW OF MY RECENT ACTIONS DESIGNED TO ENCOURAGE THE MICRONESIAN PEOPLE ALONG THE PATH THE SELF-GOVERNMENT IT WILL SUFFICE NEARLY TO EMPHASIZED AGAIN THE FAR REACHING AND HISTORIC IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION REGARDING LAND TAKEN IN

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THE PAST TWO WEEKS BY BOTH SIDES. IN ESSENCE AFTER AN INTERMINABLE PERIOD OF WAITING STRETCHING BACK OVER THE YEARS INDEED THE CENTURIES, MICRONESIANS NOW HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO CONTROL IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR LAWS AND CUSTOMS THE MOST PRECIOUS COMMODITY OF ALL IN MICRONESIA--LAND. IF SELF-GOVERNMENT CAN BE DEFINE AS INDIVIDUAL'S RIGHT TO MAKE DECISION ON THOSE MATTERS WHICH CONCERN HIM MOST DIRECTLY AND HAVE GREATEST SALIENCE FOR HIS SOCIETY TRANSFERING TO THE MICRONESIAN PEOPLE CONTROL OVER THEIR PUBLIC LAND MUST BE CONSIDERED AS NOTHING LESS THAN AN ENORMOUS STEP IN THE DIRECTION OF SELF-GOVERNMENT.

"FINALLY LET ME MENTION AN ACTION WHICH THOSE STILL LARGELY PERSPECTIVE NONETHELESS, SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN ANY LIST OF MAJOR RECENT DEVELOPMENTS INFLUENCING MICRONESIA'S FUTURE. I SPEAK OF THE LETTER I RECEIVED FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA INFORMING ME OF THE INTENT OF THE CONGRESS TO CONSIDER AGAIN LEGISLATION CALLING FOR AN EARLY CONVENING OF A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION. ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, I WELCOME AGAIN THIS POSSIBILITY

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RECALLING THAT THE AMERICAN DELEGATION FIRST URGED THE CALLING OF SUCH A CONVENTION DURING THE KOROR TALKS IN APRIL 1972. A REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE HAVE NOW BEEN RECEIVED AND IN ORDER TO LEND CONCRETE ENCOURAGEMENT TO THE CONGRESS' EFFORTS I HAVE WITH PLEASURE RECOMMENDED TO THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR THAT A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION BE SOUGHT IMMEDIATELY FROM THE U.S. CONGRESS TO HELP DEFRAY THE COST OF A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.

"IN THE ABSENCE OF A MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTION PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ANY DESIGN FOR TRANSITION TO SELF-GOVERNMENT CAN BE BEST ONLY BE UNCERTAIN AND INCOMPLETE. ON THE OTHER END THE VERY ACT OF HOLDING A SUCCESSFUL CONVENTION AT WHICH A WIDE SPECTRUM OF MICRONESIAN CITIZEN WILL BE ENGAGE IN CONSTRUCTING THE FOUNDATION AT FRAMEWORK OF THE FUTURE MICRONESIA, WILL IN AND OF ITSELF CONSTITUTE A MONUMENTAL CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN SELF-GOVERNMENT, BRINGING TO THE MICRONESIAN PEOPLE INVALUABLE EXPERIENCE AND ADDITIONAL CONFIDENCE IN THEIR CAPACITY TO DETERMINE WITHOUT OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE THEIR OWN AFFAIRS AND THEIR OWN DESTINY.

"THE THREE DECISIONS ITEMS MENTION DO NOT DIRECTLY RELATE TO THESE STATUS TALKS. BUT DO RELATE TO THE DIRECTION IN WHICH

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MICRONESIA IS MOVING--THAT IS SELF-DETERMINATION AND SELF-GOVERNMENT. IT IS THIS SAME GOAL THAT HAS BROUGHT US TOGETHER AGAIN TO COMPLETE OUR UNFINISH TASK. AS WE TAKE UP THIS WORK I WOULD LIKE TO REAFFIRM THAT THE U.S. OBJECTIVES FOR THIS TALKS REMAINS CONSTANT. WE HAVE SAID THAT WE HAVE LEGAL COMMITMENTS AND MORAL OBLIGATIONS WHICH WE HAD TEND TO LIVE UP

PAGE THREE RUHGSAA0017 UNCLAS WHICH WE DO NOT INTEND TO IGNORE.

"AT HANA, HAWAII, I UNDERScoreD THE THEME WHICH CONTINUES TO BE BASIC TO THE U.S. NEGOTIATING POSITION. I SAID THAT THE U.S. WAS ONLY INTERESTED IN DEVELOPING THE KIND OF FRAMEWORK FOR FUTURE U.S.-MICRONESIA RELATION WHICH WOULD MEET THE NEEDS, CIRCUMSTANCES AND DESIRES OF THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA AND WHICH WOULD WIN THEIR SUPPORT. TO DO OTHERWISE WOULD BE TO BUILD THE EDIFICE ON SAND A STRUCTURE WHOSE FOUNDATION WOULD GRADUALLY ERODE AND IN TIME WASH AWAY.

"IN MAY OF THIS YEAR I NOTED IN A PUBLIC STATEMENT AT MAJURO THAT THE U.S. WILL FULFILL ITS PROMISE TO THE MICRONESIAN PEOPLE TO ENSURE THAT THEY HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO CHOOSE FREELY THEIR OWN FUTURE AND I UNDERLINE THE WORD FREELY. I SAID THAT THE U.S. WOULD NEITHER RUSH THE MICRONESIAN TOWARD A DECISION ON FUTURE STATUS MORE QUICKLY THAN THEY WISH, NOR WOULD THE U.S. ATTEMPT TO DELAY A RESOLUTION THE FUTURE STATUS QUESTION.

"I CONCLUDED BY RENEWING THE UNITED STATES PLEDGE TO CONTINUE TO WORK COOPERATIVELY WITH THE JOINT COMMITTEE TOWARD A STATUS

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AGREEMENT REFLECTING THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE. THIS REMAINS THE U.S. POSITION THIS MORNING. WE ARE PREPARED TO PRESS ON WITH THE NEGOTIATIONS TOWARD A COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION. WE RECALL THAT IT WAS THE JOINT COMMITTEE WHICH FIRST PROPOSED THAT SUCH A FUTURE ASSOCIATION BE DEVELOPED VIA THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS. WE RECALL FURTHER THAT THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA HAS SEVERAL TIMES SINCE CONFIRMED ITS BELIEVE THAT A FREE ASSOCIATION ARRANGEMENT WOULD BE MOST COMPATIBLE WITH MICRONESIA'S ASPIRATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS.

DURING THE RECENT MONTHS YOU HAVE NO DOUBT REFLECTED UPON THE NATURE AND THE SUBSTANCE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS AND THE DIRECTION IN WHICH THEY ARE LEADING. THE U.S. SIDE IS AWARE OF COURSE THAT MEMBERS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE VISITED ALL OF THE DISTRICTS LAST SUMMER TO CONSULT DIRECTLY WITH THE MICRONESIAN PEOPLE ON THEIR EXPECTATIONS REGARDING FUTURE STATUS. THAT UNDERTAKING ON YOUR PART SUPPLEMENTING YOUR INDIVIDUAL REFLECTIONS AND YOUR INTERNAL CONSULTATIONS AS A BODY, HAVE DOUBTLESS GIVEN YOU ADDED PERSPECTIVE ON THE ATTITUDES AND THE SENTIMENTS OF YOUR PEOPLE.

"SPEAKING ABOUT OUR SENTIMENTS I WOULD LIKE TO REPEAT THAT

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WE DO NOT WISH TO IMPOSE OURSELF OR OUR FRIENDSHIP ON MICRONESIA. WE SEEK INSTEAD AN ASSOCIATION NOT BASED ON THE NARROW LIMITS OF LEGAL, POLITICAL, AND ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS OR SELF-INTEREST, BUT RATHER A RELATIONSHIP BASED ON MUTUAL RESPECT AND TRUST. A RELATIONSHIP WHICH THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA WOULD UNDERSTAND, WOULD WANT, AND WOULD ENTER INTO FREELY WITH HOPE AND ENTHUSIASM. AS WE PREPARED FOR THIS MEETING WE HAVE TRIED TO KEEP THIS IDEAL GOAL IN MIND.

"WE HAVE TRIED TO VIEW EACH ISSUE AS IT MIGHT BE PERCEIVED BY MICRONESIANS AS WELL AS FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE AMERICAN INTEREST. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT WE SHARE A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT COMMON INTEREST. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE ALSO THAT YOUR UNDERSTANDABLE AND COMMENDABLE GOALS OF MICRONESIAN SELF-GOVERNMENT CAN BE MET WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE KIND OF POLITICAL ASSOCIATION WE HAVE BEEN LOOKING TOWARD.

"IN CONCLUSION I SINCERELY HOPE THAT BY THE END OF THIS MONTH WE WILL HAVE FINISHED OUR TASK OF DRAFTING A BLUEPRINT FOR A NEW RELATIONSHIP WHICH WILL PROVE TO BE MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL AND WHICH WILL RECOGNIZE RESPECT, PROTECT, AND FURTHER THE LONG TERM INTEREST IN MICRONESIA."

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