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Marianas III

ZCZC HSA051/12/SW SZA SAA SGA
 PTTUZYUW RUHGSAA0010 3460735-UUUU--RUHGSUU.
 ZNR UUUUU
 P R 120735Z DEC 73
 FM HICOMTERPACIS SAIPAN MARIANAS ISLANDS
 TO ZEN/ALDISTADS TERPACIS
 ZEN/TT LNO GUAM MARIANAS ISLANDS
 TT LNO KWAJALEIN MARSHALL ISLANDS
 COMNAV MARIANAS GUAM MARIANAS ISLANDS
 CINCPACREP GUAM/TTPI GUAM MARIANAS ISLANDS
 CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
 NAVINVSERVO GUAM MARIANAS ISLANDS
 COMTWELVE SAN FRANCISCO CA
 SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC
 SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
 JCS WASHINGTON DC
 CNO WASHINGTON DC
 CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI
 CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI
 US MISSION TO UN NEW YORK NY
 CGFMFPAC CAMP H M SMITH HI
 COMCEPAC PEARL HARBOR HI
 NAVFACENGCOMHO ALEXANDRIA VA
 PACNAVFACENGCOM PEARL HARBOR HI
 TT LNO HONOLULU HI
 SAMTEC VANDENBERG AFB CA
 INFO CDRUSARBCO TTPI LNO MACHINATO JA
 BT
 UNCLAS.
 COMTWELVE PASS INFO FOR AMB WILLIAMS
 SECSTATE PASS TO DEPT INT/SEC INTERIOR/DOIA/OSN
 TTPI NO. 683

ORIG....PID
 INFO....DPA
 INFO....BD
 INFO....SA/LA
 INFO....DTC
 INFO....DRD
 INFO....HC
 INFO....DHS
 INFO....NAVY LNO
 INFO....STATUS LNO

(MARIANAS, U.S. JOINT COMMUNIQUE)
 SAIPAN, DECEMBER 12 (MNS)---AT MIDPOINT IN THE
 STATUS NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS
 COMMISSION AND THE U.S. DELEGATION, SENATOR EDWARD DLG.
 PANGELINAN, CHAIRMAN OF THE MARIANAS GROUP AND AMBASSADOR
 FRANKLIN HAYDN WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT NIXON'S PERSONAL
 REPRESENTATIVE TO THE MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS
 RELEASED A JOINT STATEMENT WEDNESDAY, (DEC. 12). THE
 FOLLOWING IS THE COMPLETE TEXT OF THE STATEMENT:
 " THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS
 COMMISSION AND THE HEAD OF THE U.S. DELEGATION NOTED WITH
 SATISFACTION TODAY THAT SINCE THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS
 NEGOTIATIONS RESUMED LAST THURSDAY STEADY AND SUBSTANTIAL
 PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE. THE GOAL OF THE PRESENT TALKS IS TO
 EXPLORE IN MORE DETAIL SPECIFIC ISSUES ARISING UNDER EACH

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OF THE MAJOR AGENDA HEADINGS ON WHICH PRELIMINARY UNDERSTANDINGS WERE REACHED LAST MAY-JUNE--NAMELY, CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL ARRANGEMENTS, ECONOMICS AND FINANCE, LAND, AND TRANSITION--AND TO REACH FURTHER TENTATIVE AGREEMENT ON AS MANY OF THESE ISSUES AS TIME PERMITS.

"SINCE LAST THURSDAY THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL WORKING SESSIONS OF THE FULL DELEGATIONS AND OF SUBCOMMITTEES REPRESENTING THEM TO EXPLORE SOME OF THE MORE TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF THE ISSUES BEING CONSIDERED. THE TWO SIDES HAVE ARRIVED AT AGREEMENTS IN PRINCIPLE ON QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE RIGHT OF LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT, A GENERALIZED APPROACH TO THE APPLICATION OF U.S. LAWS IN THE MARIANAS, AS WELL AS CUSTOMS, EXCISE AND INCOME TAXATION. ALSO, THE U.S. AND THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION HAVE REACHED GENERAL AGREEMENT ON THE WORDING OF A CLAUSE IN THE ULTIMATE STATUS INSTRUMENT PROVIDING THAT THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS WILL BECOME U.S. CITIZENS OR U.S. NATIONALS AS THEY MAY DESIRE. THE SPECIFIC AGREEMENTS REACHED ON THESE AND THE OTHER TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE SET FORTH IN A JOINT COMMUNIQUE TO BE RELEASED AT THE CLOSE OF THIS SESSION OF THE TALKS.

"THE DELEGATIONS ARE PRESENTLY DISCUSSING THE FUNDING AND INITIATION OF A SERIES OF TRANSITIONAL STUDIES AND STEPS BY WHICH THE NORTHERN MARIANAS WILL, FOLLOWING THE SIGNING OF A STATUS AGREEMENT, PREPARE OF A NEW GOVERNMENT'S SMOOTH, ORDERLY ASSUMPTION OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR LOCAL AFFAIRS PURSUANT TO A CONSTITUTION TO BE FRAMED AND ADOPTED LOCALLY.

"THE CHAIRMEN OF THE TWO DELEGATIONS ANTICIPATE THAT LATER THIS WEEK THEIR DELEGATIONS WILL CONSIDER IN MORE SPECIFIC TERMS THAN THEY HAVE PREVIOUSLY ATTEMPTED THE FUTURE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE NORTHERN MARIANAS AND THE UNITED STATES AND A NUMBER OF REMAINING QUESTIONS RELATING TO LAND.

"THE CHAIRMEN EMPHASIZED THAT THE PACE AND MOMENTUM OF THE TALKS TO DATE HAVE MET THEIR EXPECTATIONS. THEY NOTED THAT WHILE THE DELEGATIONS ARE EXCHANGING A GREAT DEAL OF INFORMATION ON COMPLICATED MATTERS REQUIRING MUCH STUDY, REFLECTION, AND DISCUSSION, THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE PROCEEDING EFFICIENTLY AND HARMONIOUSLY."