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HICOMTERPACIS  
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS MI  
SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC  
COMTWELVE SAN FRANCISCO CA  
WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC  
JCS WASHINGTON DC/SECDEF  
WASHINGTON DC  
PRIORITY

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI  
CINCPACREP GUAM/TIPI GUAM  
MARIANAS ISLANDS  
US MISSION TO UN NEW YORK NY

UNCLASSIFIED

STATUS LNO:  
MVTRENT 12/13/73

FROM STATUS LNO NO. 209

PASS INTERIOR FOR OMSM 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  
PASS JUSTICE FOR MARCUSE (OLC)  
USUN FOR AMB WHITE

SUBJECT: MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS TALKS: JOINT PRESS STATEMENT

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED TO PRESS DECEMBER 12 BY AMBASSADOR FRANKLIN HAYDM WILLIAMS, CHAIRMAN, U.S. DELEGATION AND SENATOR EDWARD PANGELINAN, CHAIRMAN OF THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS

COMMISSION: BEGIN TEXT. 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 NEGOTIA-

TIONS RESUMED LAST THURSDAY STRADY AND SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE. THE GOAL OF THE PRESENT TALKS IS TO EXPLORE IN MORE DETAIL SPECIFIC ISSUES ARISING UNDER EACH 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.

LNO

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

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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 FOR A NEW GOVERNMENT'S SMOOTH, ORDERLY ASSUMPTION OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR LOCAL AFFAIRS PURSUANT TO A CONSTITUTION TO BE FRAMED AND ADOPTED LOCALLY.

<sup>E</sup>  
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 INFOR-

MATION ON COMPLICATED MATTERS REQUIRING MUCH STUDY, REFLECTION, AND DISCUSSION, THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE PROCEEDING EFFICIENTLY AND HARMONIOUSLY.

END TEXT

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