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ACTION INT-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-03 JUSE-00 PRS-01 L-03 H-01 /024 W

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P 130100Z DEC 73
FM HICOMTERPACIS SAIPAN MARIANAS ISLANDS
TO RUEHC /SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC
COMTWELVE SAN FRANCISCO CA
WHITE HOUSE COMM AGENCY WASHINGTON DC
JCS WASHINGTON DC
SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
CINCPACREP GUAM/TTPI GUAM MARIANAS ISLANDS
RUEHDT /US MISSION TO UN NEW YORK NY

TTPI

Marianas
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FROM STATUS LNO NO. 209
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
PASS JUSTICE FOR MARCUSE (OLC)
USUN FOR AMB WHITE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/AR

REVIEWED BY Btl. BAAS DATE 3/25/87

REASON(S) FOR EXEMPTION DATE _____

REASON(S) _____

ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS

DECLASSIFIED/RELEASABLE

RELEASE POINTS _____

DATE OF EXEMPTIONS _____

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SUBJECT: MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS TALKS; JOINT PRESS STATEMENT
1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED TO PRESS DECEMBER 12
BY AMBASSADOR FRANKLIN HAYDN WILLIAMS, CHAIRMAN, U.S. DELEGATION AND
SENATOR EDWARD PANGELINAN, CHAIRMAN OF THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS
COMMISSION: BEGIN ETEXT. 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 STEADY 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--NAMESLY,

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CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL ARRANGEMENTS, ECONOMICS AND FINANCE, LANDS 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,

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EXCISE AND INCOME TAXATION, ALSO, THE U.S. AND THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION HAVE REACHED GENERAL AGREEMENT ON THE WORKING 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 FOR 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.

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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-

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

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