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POLITICAL EDUCATION OF THE AIR.

PROGRAM #4...COMMONWEALTH

THEME : UP, ESTABLISH TEN SECONDS THEN DOWN AND UNDER  
ANNOUNCER.

ANNOUNCER: THIS PROGRAM, POLITICAL EDUCATION OF THE AIR,  
IS A PUBLIC SERVICE PRESENTATION OF THE  
HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS. THE  
SERIES IS DESIGNED TO HELP BRING ABOUT AN  
AWARENESS OF THE VARIOUS POLITICAL ALTERNATIVES  
TO THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA.

THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT TAKES NO SIDES  
IN THE POLITICAL ISSUES ON THE FUTURE OF  
MICRONESIA. ITS TASK IS SIMPLY TO PRESENT THE  
ISSUES AS THEY ARE, NOT TO INTERPRET THEM OR  
DRAW ANY CONCLUSIONS FROM THEM.

THEME : UP, ESTABLISH FIVE SECONDS THEN DOWN, UNDER  
NARRATOR, AND OUT.

NARRATOR : AS WE LEARNED IN AN EARLIER PROGRAM OF THIS  
SERIES, THE UNITED STATES HAS OFFERED A COMMON-  
WEALTH FORM OF GOVERNMENT TO MICRONESIA.  
HOWEVER, SO FAR ONLY ONE OF THE SIX DISTRICTS  
OF MICRONESIA HAS EXPRESSED A CLEAR DESIRE TO  
ACCEPT THIS ALTERNATIVE. THAT DISTRICT IS THE

MARIANA ISLANDS, FOR THE BENEFIT OF THOSE WHO ARE STILL INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE COMMONWEALTH PROPOSAL, WE WILL PRESENT A DESCRIPTION OF IT TODAY. THE MARIANAS HAVE ELECTED TO PURSUE THIS FORM OF ASSOCIATION AND, THEREFORE, THE PARTICULAR PROGRAM WILL BEAR DIRECTLY AND HAVE A SPECIAL IMPACT ON THEM.

THE DISCUSSION ON THIS PROGRAM IS BASED ON THE U.S. PROPOSAL SUBMITTED TO THE MARIANAS THIS SPRING. WHATEVER CHANGES OR MODIFICATIONS MAY DEVELOP FROM THE CURRENT ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE MARIANAS AND THE U.S. DELEGATION ARE OF COURSE FOR THE FUTURE BUT SHOULD NOT MATERIALLY AFFECT THE GENERAL NATURE OF THE ARRANGEMENT OF COMMONWEALTH AS IT MIGHT BE CONSIDERED FOR OTHER PARTS OF MICRONESIA.

UNDER THE TERMS OF THE COMMONWEALTH OFFERED BY THE UNITED STATES, THE MARIANAS WOULD BECOME A PART OF THE UNITED STATES AND WOULD, AS A RESULT, ASSUME CERTAIN OBLIGATIONS AND AT THE SAME TIME RECEIVE CERTAIN RIGHTS AND BENEFITS. THE RELATIONSHIP WOULD INVOLVE MUCH CLOSER TIES THAN EITHER THE FREE ASSOCIATION AND

INDEPENDENCE PROPOSALS. HOWEVER, THE RELATIONSHIP WOULD NOT BE AS CLOSE AS THAT OF A STATE OF THE UNITED STATES NOR WOULD IT BE ONE WHICH IMPLIES LESS INTERNAL AUTONOMY AS IS THE CASE OF AN UNINCORPORATED TERRITORY. AS A COMMONWEALTH, MICRONESIA WOULD JOIN THE POLITICAL FAMILY AND POLITICAL AREA WHICH MAKE UP THE UNION UNDER THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTIONAL SYSTEM.

PERHAPS THE EASIEST WAY TO CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THE NATURE OF THE PROPOSAL FOR COMMONWEALTH STATUS IS TO EXAMINE THE RELATIONSHIP WHICH WOULD EXIST BETWEEN THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS AND THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. UNDER THE UNITED STATES PROPOSAL, CERTAIN POWERS WOULD BE RESERVED PRIMARILY FOR THE MICRONESIAN GOVERNMENT; OTHERS WOULD BE SHARED WITH THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, AND OTHERS WOULD BE RESERVED PRIMARILY FOR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.

A SUMMARY OF THE RELATIONSHIP WHICH WOULD EXIST IN MAJOR AREAS IS AS FOLLOWS:

ANNOUNCER: 1. BY JOINING THE UNITED STATES POLITICAL SYSTEM, THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS WOULD BE OFFERED A

CHOICE BETWEEN TWO STATUSES. CURRENT RESIDENTS COULD BECOME UNITED STATES CITIZENS, BUT IF THEY DID NOT WANT THIS THEY COULD SIMPLY BECOME UNITED STATES NATIONALS - A CONDITION WHICH GIVES FEWER INDIVIDUAL PRIVILEGES AND OBLIGATIONS.

SINCE THEY WOULD BE EITHER U.S. CITIZENS OR U.S. NATIONALS, THEY WOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO FREE ACCESS TO THE UNITED STATES FOR ANY REASON, INCLUDING BUSINESS, STUDY AND TRAVEL. IN ADDITION, GOODS ORIGINATING IN THE MARIANAS

WOULD BE ALLOWED FREE ACCESS INTO THE UNITED STATES.

2. THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS WOULD BE FREE TO DETERMINE THEIR OWN INTERNAL GOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURE THROUGH A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION WITHIN CERTAIN LIMITATIONS AND RESTRICTIONS. FIRST, THE CONSTITUTION OF THE MARIANAS WOULD HAVE TO PROVIDE A REPUBLICAN FORM OF GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING A BILL OF RIGHTS, AND NOT BE INCONSISTENT WITH THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OR THE UNITED

STATES ACT ESTABLISHING THE COMMONWEALTH  
RELATIONSHIP.

3. THE MARIANAS LEGISLATURE WOULD HAVE FULL  
AUTHORITY TO LEGISLATE IN LOCAL MATTERS.
4. ALL THE PROPERTY HELD OR CONTROLLED BY THE  
TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT IN THE MARIANAS  
INCLUDING THE SO-CALLED PUBLIC LANDS AND  
MILITARY RETENTION AREAS WOULD BE TURNED  
OVER TO THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT.
5. AREAS AGREED TO BY THE MARIANAS AND THE U.S.  
GOVERNMENT WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE  
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES OR  
MILITARY NEEDS.
6. THE MARIANAS WOULD HAVE ITS OWN LOCAL COURTS  
WHICH WOULD ENFORCE AND INTERPRET LOCAL LAWS.  
IN ADDITION THE U.S. FEDERAL COURT SYSTEM  
COULD BE EXPANDED TO INCLUDE THE MARIANAS AND  
THE U.S. CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS AND THE U.S.  
SUPREME COURT COULD BE AVAILABLE FOR APPEALS.
7. MEANS WOULD BE FOUND TO PROTECT LAND IN THE  
MARIANAS FROM ALIENATION TO OUTSIDERS.

8. FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE FOR THE MARIANAS WOULD BE TAKEN CARE OF AND HANDLED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.
9. THE MARIANAS WOULD ENJOY SUBSTANTIAL FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FROM THE UNITED STATES BOTH DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY IN THE FORM OF FEDERAL GRANTS AND PROGRAMS AND EXPENDITURES RESULTING FROM MILITARY ACTIVITIES AND SPENDING IN THE AREA.

NARRATOR: THESE ARE AMONG THE MAJOR AREAS IN WHICH THE MICRONESIANS WOULD HAVE TO CONSIDER THE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF THE CONCEPT OF COMMONWEALTH.

AS POINTED OUT EARLIER THIS CONCEPT HAS BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE LEADERS OF THE MARIANAS DISTRICT. THE CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. DELEGATION AND THE MARIANAS FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION ARE BASED ON THIS TYPE OF POLITICAL ARRANGEMENT.

THE LEADERS OF THE FIVE OTHER DISTRICTS IN THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA HAVE NOT ACCEPTED THIS PROPOSAL.

THEME: UP, ESTABLISH FOR 10 SECONDS, THEN FADE UNDER

ANNOUNCER: NEXT WEEK WE WILL HEAR THE FIFTH PROGRAM OF THIS SERIES...POLITICAL EDUCATION OF THE AIR, THIS HAS BEEN A PUBLIC SERVICE PRESENTATION OF THE HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS. THE PROGRAM IS DESIGNED TO HELP BRING ABOUT AN AWARENESS OF THE VARIOUS POLITICAL ALTERNATIVES OPEN TO THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA.

THIS PROGRAM HAS COME TO YOU FROM SAIPAN AND IS A PRESENTATION OF THE MICRONESIAN BROADCASTING SERVICE.

THEME: UP TO END OR TIME.