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FROM: CINCPACREP GUAM/TTPI GUAM MARIANAS ISLANDS
TO: SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC
COMTWELVE SAN FRANCISCO CA
WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC
JCS WASHINGTON DC/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
US MISSION TO UN NEW YORK NY

FROM STATUS LNO NO. ~~1108~~ (Apr. 26, 1974)

PASS INTERIOR FOR OMSN ACTION
PASS INTERIOR FOR DOTA INFO
COMTWELVE FOR AMB WILLIAMS ACTION
WHITE HOUSE FOR NSC
STATE FOR EA/ANP, IO/UNP
DEFENSE FOR OSD/ISA
USUN FOR AMB WHITE

SUBJECT: A VIEW OF THE MARIANAS (~~APRIL 26, 1974~~)

1. (C) WITH ROUND FOUR OF THE MARIANAS STATUS TALKS NOW SET FOR MAY 15 ON SAIPAN, THIS MESSAGE PRESENTS A SURVEY OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN MARIANAS DISTRICT AND ATTEMPTS TO SET FORTH SOMETHING OF ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH TALKS MAY BE EXPECTED TO TAKE PLACE.

2. (C) MPSC CHAIRMAN PANGELINAN'S RELUCTANCE TO HAVE ~~THE~~ ROUND TAKE PLACE ON SAIPAN AND HIS REPEATED EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN AND PREDICTIONS OF PROBLEMS THAT WOULD HAVE TO BE FACED BY MEETING HERE, ARE, I BELIEVE, OUTWARD SIGNS OF CONSIDERABLE INWARD AGITATION NOT ONLY ON PART OF PANGELINAN BUT ON PART OF MARIANAS POLITICAL LEADERS IN GENERAL. PANGELINAN'S GRUDGING ACCEPTANCE OF SAIPAN VENUE (ACKNOWLEDGING THAT VIRTUALLY BANKRUPT MPSC COULD NOT ITSELF FUND ATTENDANCE AT MEETING ANYWHERE ELSE) WAS FORERUNNER OF STORY

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2.

TINIAN ACTIVISTS

THAT BROKE APRIL 24 CONCERNING HOSTILE MOVES BY HERMAN MANGLONA, FELIPE MENDIOLA AND SYLVESTER CRUZ TO TAKE WHAT THEY APPARENTLY INTENDED ^{TO} ~~WOULD~~ BE LEGAL ACTION TO PREVENT U.S. ACQUISITION OF LAND REQUIREMENTS ON TINIAN. ~~REXXXXXXXXX~~ REGRETTABLY, PANGELINAN ~~SEEMS TO BE THE ONLY PLACE WHERE SUCH~~ ^{SO FAR HAS MADE NO MOVE TO CONFRONT THIS} OPPOSITION, ~~MOVES, OR AT LEAST HE GIVES DISTURBING EVIDENCE OF HAVING~~

~~THIS~~
3. (C) NOT SURPRISINGLY TINIAN SEEMS TO BE THE HEART OF THE POLITICAL ACTIVITY BUT THE FERMENT IS ~~MORE~~ WIDELY SPREAD, SPARKED BY FORTHCOMING LOCAL ELECTIONS ON BOTH TINIAN AND SAIPAN FOR MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MEMBERS.

4. (C) ELECTION ON TINIAN IS SET FOR FIRST SUNDAY IN JUNE. PARTY LINES, CUSTOMARILY SOMEWHAT HAZY ON TINIAN, SEEM TO BE LESS BINDING THAN EVER. ^{SAIPANESE} ~~ONE~~ ONE COMMENTATOR HAS DESCRIBED SITUATION THERE AS POLARIZING ON THE BASIS OF PRO AND CON U.S. MILITARY REQUIREMENTS. CANDIDATES, HOWEVER, BEAR PARTY BANNERS AND TERRITORIAL PARTY HAS COME UP WITH STRONGLY ANTI-MILITARY CANDIDATE FELIPE MENDIOLA ~~AS THE CANDIDATE~~ FOR MAYOR. PRESENT REPORTS ~~NEVER~~ INDICATE THAT POPULAR PARTY HAS SPLIT WITH ONE FACTION HAVING NOMINATED PRESENT SPEAKER HARRY CRUZ FOR MAYOR AND SECOND HALF, SLATED TO MAKE ITS DECISION APRIL 27, MAY NOMINATE PRESENT MAYOR BORJA, REGARDED AS PRO-MILITARY. A PLETHORA OF CANDIDATES FOR TINIAN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL SEEMS TO HAVE NARROWED TO ^{REASONABLE} ~~NEGLECTIBLE~~ PROPORTIONS WITH THREE CANDIDATES MOUNTED BY EACH OF THE TWO PARTIES. WHILE AS INDICATED ABOVE, PARTY DISTINCTION IS NOT FIRM, GENERAL LINE-UP IS TERRITORIAL PARTY ANTI-MILITARY; POPULAR PARTY PRO-MILITARY.

5. (C) ELECTION FOR SAIPAN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL IS SCHEDULED FOR SECOND SUNDAY OF JUNE. PARTIES ARE SCHEDULED TO MEET THIS WEEKEND TO FINALIZE THEIR CANDIDATES, BOTH FOR THE COUNCIL AND FOR THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.

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6. (C) THERE ARE SIGNS ^{OF} ~~THE~~ MARIANAS' TERRITORIAL PARTY ~~IS MOVING TOWARD~~ SUPPORT ^{FOR} ~~OF~~ CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA AND ~~THE~~ CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION FOR ALL DISTRICTS. ^{ON SUBJECT SAYS;} ARTICLE IN WEEKLY I.GAZETA ~~MAKES THIS POINT AS FOLLOWS:~~ "INTERESTINGLY THE STATUS COMMISSION OF THE MARIANAS MAY VERY WELL BE REDIRECTED TO INSURE THAT BASIC OWNERSHIP OF THE MARIANAS ~~KXXX~~ RESTS WITH THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS AND NOT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, NIXON, WILLIAMS AND NOT EVEN LOCAL POLITICIANS. ACCORDINGLY, THE PARTY DECIDED TO WORK WITH THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA UNTIL SUCH TIME WHEN THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS ARE READY TO DEVELOP A GOVERNMENT OF THEIR OWN -- A GOVERNMENT WHICH IS FREE FROM DICTATORIAL CONTEXT --. A GOVERNMENT WHICH MUST PROTECT ITS CITIZENS FROM FOREIGN EXPLOITATION."

7. (C) PRESIDENT OF TERRITORIAL PARTY FRANK PALACIOS OF MPSC HAS BEEN OFF ISLAND FOR PAST WEEK AND I HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO CHECK OUT PARTY POSITION WITH HIM. HOWEVER, I HAVE HELD DISCUSSION WITH TWO LEADERS OF UNITED CAROLINIAN ASSOCIATION WHICH IS AFFILIATED WITH TERRITORIAL PARTY. WHILE ONE OF THEM SAID CLEARLY THAT UCA SUPPORTS CONGRESS AND FREE ASSOCIATION FOR ALL MICRONESIA, FELIX RABULIMAN OF MPSC WAS NOT SO FIRM.

8. (C) RABULIMAN DISCUSSED AT SOME LENGTH THE PERSISTENT STREAM OF TRADITIONAL LEADERSHIP AMONG CAROLINIANS IN THE MARIANAS. HE SAID UCA ~~HAS~~ NAMED FOUR TRADITIONAL LEADERS REPRESENTING CLEARLY DEFINED CAROLINIAN CLANS AND WILL INSIST THAT THEY ^{OR} ~~ARE~~ THEIR REPRESENTATIVES ~~ARE~~ BE INCLUDED IN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.

9. (C) ON ANOTHER OCCASION PALACIOS SAID THAT CHAMORROS TOO HAD TRADITIONAL LEADERS WHO, IN SOMEWHAT MYSTIC FASHION WOULD COME FORTH AT THE PROPER TIME. WHILE HE DECLINED TO NAME THEM ~~EX~~ I HAVE UNDERSTOOD FROM OTHERS THAT TWO PRINCIPALS ARE ^{MANUEL} ~~MANUEL~~ PANGELINAN, FATHER OF EDITOR OF I. GAZETA VICTOR PANGELINAN, AND VENERABLE JUDGE BENAVENTE.

10. (C) IN CONTRAST TO THESE INDICATIONS OF LIVELY ACTIVITY AMONG THE SENIOR CITIZENS, IS THE REPORT OF A NEW ^{YOUTH} GROUP ON SAIPAN CALLED MARIANAS FUTURE ORGANIZATION. THIS ORGANIZATION GATHERING TOGETHER YOUNG VOTERS IN THE 18 TO 25 YEAR AGE GROUP IS CHAIRED ~~XXXXX~~ BY YOUNG DINO JONES WHO IS ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO MARIANAS CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION AND ASSISTANT EDITOR OF MARIANAS VARIETY. THE ORGANIZATION STARTING OUT WITH A MEMBERSHIP OF 25 TO 30 BUT ^{IS} ~~GROWING~~, ^{MEMBERS} INVITED SENATOR PANGELINAN TO DISCUSS MARIANAS STATUS WITH THEM AT A RECENT MEETING. JONES HAS TOLD ME THAT THE GROUP IS INTERESTED IN MICRONESIAN IDENTITY, ^{MEANING} ~~MARRIAGE~~ OF MARIANAS AS A STRATEGIC AREA, ALTERNATIVES TO COMMONWEALTH STATUS AND DEVELOPMENT OF MARINE AND SOIL RESOURCES.

11. (C) ONE OF THE DISTRICT'S YOUNG POLITICAL LEADERS OSCAR RASA, WHO ALMOST MADE HIS WAY TO THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA IN THE 1972 ^{VIA TERRITORIAL PARTY} ELECTION ~~HAS~~ COME OUT AGAIN WITH SOME PROMINENCE AS PUBLISHER OF I. GAZETA HAVING RETURN^{ED} TO SAIPAN FROM GRADUATE STUDY AT AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN WASHINGTON. HIS POLITICAL ASPIRATIONS ARE WIDELY KNOWN.

12. (C) THE POLITICAL EFFECT OF THE CURRENT LEGAL TROUBLE IN WHICH MARIANAS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE PRESIDENT AND MPSC VICE-CHAIRMAN ^{GEN SANTOS} FINDS ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ HIMSELF IS SOMEWHAT DIFFICULT TO ASSESS. SANTOS HAS LAIN VERY LOW SINCE NOTICE WAS SERVED ON HIM OF A CIVIL SUIT THAT, REPORTS SAY, MIGHT INVOLVE HIM IN IMPROPER USE OF FUNDS UP TO 35 THOUSAND DOLLARS. DEADLINE FOR HIS REPLY IS IMMINENT. ONE AUTHORITATIVE SOURCE (MARIANAS DISTRICT ATTORNEY) COMMENTS THAT WITH THE HEAVY BACK LOG OF CASES ON THE MARIANAS ^{COURT} CALENDAR, SANTOS' CASE MIGHT SEE FURTHER LONG DELAY. ANOTHER BUT LESSER POLITICAL ^{NAME} ~~NAME~~ ALSO INVOLVED IN FINANCE MISHANDLING IS JOHANNES TAIMANAO ~~XXXXX~~ FORMER ROTA MEMBER OF THE MPSC. HE HAS NOT BEEN REPLACED AND PANGELINAN SAYS

