

INFO.....E/PA
INFO.....SA/LA
INFO.....BD
INFO.....STATUS LNO
INFO.....NAVY LNO
INFO....D/TC
INFO...DHC
INFO..HC
INFO.D/R&D

Wm. IV
10
5,2

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ZCZC HSA050/03/MB SZA SAA SGA
PTTUZYUW RUHGSAA0011 1541012-UUUU--RUHGSUU.
ZNR UUUUU
P 031012Z JUNE 74 ZNZ1
FM HICOMTERPACIS SAIPAN MARIANAS ISLANDS
TO ZEN/ALDISTADS TERPACIS
ZEN/TT LNO GUAM MARIANAS ISLANDS
TT LNO KWAJALEIN MARSHALL ISLANDS
COMNAVMARIANAS GUAM MARIANA ISLANDS
CINCPACREP GUAM/TTPI GUAM MARIANA ISLANDS
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
NAVINSERVO GUAM MARIANA ISLANDS
COMTWELVE SAN FRANCISCO CA
SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC
SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
JCS WASHINGTON DC
CNO WASHINGTON DC
CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI
CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI
CGFMFPAC CAMP H M SMITH HI
COMCBPAC PEARL HARBOR HI
NAVFACENGCOMHQ ALEXANDRIA VA
PACNAVFACENGCOM PEARL HARBOR HI
TT LNO HONOLULU HI
SAMTEC VANDENBERG AFB CA
CDRUSARBCO MACHINATO JAPAN//TTPI-LNO//

BT
UNCLAS
COMTWELVE PASS INFO FOR AMB WILLIAMS
SECSTATE PASS TO DEPT INT/SEC INTERIOR/DOIA OSN
TTPI NO. 363

(MARIANAS ARE STRATEGIC NEED)
SAIPAN, JUNE 3 (MNS)---THE MARIANA ISLANDS ARE DESTINED TO BECOME THE FOCAL POINT OF AMERICA'S MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE PACIFIC DURING THE NEXT 15 YEARS, MEMBERS OF THE SAIPAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WERE MONDAY (JUNE 3).
THE SPEAKER WAS JAMES H. WEBB, A FORMER U.S. MARINE AND THE AUTHOR OF SEVERAL ARTICLES, AND A FORTHCOMING BOOK, ABOUT AMERICAN MILITARY STRATEGY IN THE PACIFIC. CURRENTLY A TEMPORARY CONSULTANT TO THE GUAM TERRITORIAL PLANNING COMMISSION, WEBB SPOKE RECENTLY TO AN ECONOMIC CONFERENCE ON GUAM. HE WAS ASKED TO SPEAK ON THE SAME SUBJECT TO THE SAIPAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BY MEMBERS WHO HEARD THE GUAM SPEECH.

"I PERSONALLY BELIEVE THAT U.S. FORCES WILL BE CONSOLIDATED IN THE MARIANA ISLANDS--BASICALLY IN THE GUAM-TINIAN AXIS," WEBB TOLD THE LOCAL BUSINESSMEN. "GIVEN THE FACT THAT IT IS BOTH DESIRABLE AND NECESSARY THAT WE ALTER THE STRUCTURE OF OUR ASIAN PRESENCE, COUPLED WITH THE FACT THAT IT IS THE INTENTION OF THE U.S. TO REMAIN A PACIFIC POWER, THE MOST LOGICAL STRATEGIC OPTION IS TO CONSOLIDATE OUR FORCES INTO AN INNER POSITION."

GUAM AND THE MARIANAS, HE ADDED, WOULD MAKE AN IDEAL INTERIOR POSITION. THE ISLANDS ARE STRATEGICALLY LOCATED WITH REGARD TO POSSIBLE ASIAN COMMITMENT POINTS SUCH AS CHINA, KOREA AND MALAYSIAN PENINSULA. IN ADDITION, THERE IS NOWHERE ELSE FOR THE U.S. TO GO BEYOND THE MARIANAS EXCEPT TO HAWAII. AND, SAID WEBB. "...IF THE U.S. IS FORCED

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A VIABLE PACIFIC POWER."

WEBB SAID THE AMERICAN MILITARY INTEREST IN THE MARSHALL ISLANDS IS NOT A STRATEGIC, BUT A FUNCTIONAL ONE, AND THE INTEREST BEING EXPRESSED IN PALAU IS ONE THAT WOULD ONLY BECOME A REALITY IN THE EVENT OF A MILITARY COMMITMENT. IN THAT EVENT, PALAU WOULD PROBABLY BE USED AS SOME SORT OF STAGING AREA.

WEBB EMPHASIZED DURING HIS REMARKS THAT HE WAS SPEAKING ONLY FOR HIMSELF, AND THAT HIS VIEWS WERE NOT AN EXPRESSION OF OFFICAL U.S. DEFENSE DEPARTMENT POLICY.

HE SAID HIS PRIMARY CONCERN IS THAT THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS MAY NOT BE FULLY AWARE OF WHAT IS BEING NEGOTIATED IN THE CURRENT STATUS TALKS.

"WHAT IS IMPORTANT," HE STATED, "IS THAT THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS UNDERSTAND TWO THINGS BEFORE THEY EXERCISE THEIR VOTE IN A PLEBISCITE: FIRST, THAT IT IS QUITE CONCEIVABLE THAT IN FUTURE YEARS THERE WILL BE A LARGER MILITARY PRESENCE THAN WHAT IS NOW BEING PLANNED FOR; AND SECONDLY, THEY SHOULD UNDERSTAND WHY: THAT SUCH AN INCREASED MILITARY POPULATION WILL BE THE BACKBONE OF OUR FUTURE PACIFIC PRESENCE, AND AS SUCH, THE ABSOLUTE KEY TO THE STABILITY OF THE AREA."

WEBB SAID HE PERSONALLY BELIEVES IN THE NECESSITY AND THE VALIDITY OF THE U.S. MILITARY PLANS FOR TINIAN AND THE REST OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS. BUT HE SAID HE ALSO GETS THE FEELING THAT THE IMPLICATIONS OF SUCH MILITARY PRESENCE HAVE NOT BEEN OUTLINED IN DETAIL TO THE PEOPLE.

HE ATTEMPTED TO DO THIS BY POINTING OUT THE CHANGES THAT HAVE OCCURRED IN RECENT YEARS IN U.S. POLICY IN THE PACIFIC AND ASIA. A REDUCTION OF 40 PER CENT HAS OCCURRED IN U.S. MILITARY STRENGTH IN THE AREA SINCE 1969, WITHOUT INCLUDING VIETNAM, AND THIS REDUCTION IS CONTINUING. HE POINTED OUT IT IS LIKELY THAT, UNDER THE NIXON, OR GUAM DOCTRINE, THE U.S. WILL PROBABLY WITHDRAW COMPLETELY FROM SOUTH KOREA, TAIWAN, THAILAND AND THE PHILIPPINES IN THE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS, AND SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE HER PRESENCE IN JAPAN. AS A FALLBACK POSITION, THE MARIANAS EITHER ARE, OR WILL SOON BE, AMERICAN SOIL. IN ADDITION, THEY ARE READILY DEFENSIBLE IN THE TRADITIONAL SENSE, WEBB POINTED OUT, AND ARE CENTRALLY LOCATED.

WEBB SAID THAT BECAUSE OF THIS AMERICAN NEED FOR BASES IN THE MARIANAS, THE PEOPLE OF THESE ISLANDS SHOULD NOT THINK THAT ALL THEY ARE NEGOTIATING FOR IS THE PUBLICLY STATED 2,500-MAN FACILITY ON TINIAN. ALTHOUGH HE DECLINED TO NAME A FIGURE FOR THE RECORD, HE INDICATED HIS FEELING THAT THE NUMBER OF MEN EVENTUALLY STATIONED ON TINIAN WILL BE MUCH HIGHER THAN 2,500.

THE U.S. HAS EXPRESSED A NEED FOR JUST UNDER TWO-THIRDS OF TINIAN FOR A BASE, AS WELL AS LESSER NEEDS ON SAIPAN AND ELSEWHERE IN THE MARIANAS. TENTATIVE AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED BETWEEN THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION AND THE U.S. TO ACCOMODATE THESE NEEDS AS PART OF AN AGREEMENT THAT THE MARIANAS DISTRICT WILL BECOME A COMMONWEALTH OF THE UNITED STATES. MOST OBSERVERS EXPECT FINAL AGREEMENT BY THE END OF THIS YEAR.

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