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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 10-14 INR-13 PM-27 INT-05 JUSE-33 SS-23 L-33

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R 25 3239Z JUN 74
FM CINCPAC REP GUAM MARIANAS ISLANDS
TO RUEHC /SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC
COMTWELVE SAN FRANCISCO CA
WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC
JCS WASHINGTON DC
SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
RUEHDT /US MISSION TO UN NEW YORK NY

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SECTION 31 OF 02
FROM STATUS LNO 187 (JUNE 21, 1974)
PASS INTERIOR FOR OMSN INFO
PASS INTERIOR FOR DOTA INFO
COMTWELVE FOR AMB WILLIAMS
LWHITE HOUSE FOR NSC
STATE FOR EA/ANP, IO/UNP
DEFENSE FOR OSD/ISA
PASS JUSTICE FOR MARCUSE (OLC)
USUN FOR AMB WHITE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR	
REVIEWED BY	<u>B.H. BAAS</u> DATE <u>9/17/86</u>
RDSTOR	EXEMPT. DATE
TS AUTH.	SECTION(S)
ENDORSE	EXEMPTING MARKINGS <input type="checkbox"/>
DPOM	SECRETARY'S SIGNATURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
EMULASD	REMARKS
PA	OF FOR EXEMPTIONS

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SUBJECT: A LOOK AT PAGAN ISLAND AND ITS PEOPLE
1. COMMANDER WESTLAKE AND STATUS LNO TRENT VISITED PAGAN ISLAND
IN MARIANAS DISTRICT JUNE 20. THE 1 1/2 HOUR FLIGHT OF SOME 200
MILES FROM SAIPAN WAS MADE IN 6-SEATER CESSNA SKYMASTER AIRCRAFT
OPERATED BY ISLAND AVIATION CO. OF GUAM WHICH IS NOW PROVIDING
THIS TYPE OF WEEKLY SERVICE BETWEEN GUAM AND PAGAN. PREPARATION
FOR TRIP INCLUDED DISCUSSIONS WITH MPSC MEMBER FOR NOR THERN
ISLANDS SEN. OLYMPIO BORJA (WHOSE ARTICULATE CHAMPIONING OF THEIR
CAUSE IS FAMILIAR TO USDEL IN MARIANAS STATUS NEGOTIATIONS).

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ACTING HICOM COLEMAN AND MARIANAS DEPUTY DISTAD AKMOTQ NHG.
NOTIFIED PAGAN DISTADREP DANNY CASTRO BY RADIO.

2. FLIGHT WAS MADE UNDER EXCELLENT WEATHER CONDITIONS PERMITTING CLOSE VIEW OF ANATAHAN, SARIGAN, GUGUAN AND ALAMAGAN ISLANDS AND MORE DISTANT VIEW OF FARALLON DE MEDINILLA EN ROUTE. HIGH VOLCANIC PEAKS AND BUSH COVERED CRATERS, DARK STREAKS OF OLD LAVA FLOWS, OCCASIONAL BLACK SAND STRIPS, WITH NO NATURAL HARBOR FORMATION, CHARACTERIZED THE 5,000 FT. AERIAL VIEW OF THESE RUGGED HIGH ISLANDS.
3. PAGAN APPEARED LARGEST AND HANDSOMEST OF THE LOT WITH TWO VOLCANIC PEAKS RISING ABOUT 3,000 FEET OUT OF THE SEA. EXCEPT

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FOR EVEN HIGHER AGRIHAN, VISIBLE A FEW MILES AWAY, AND SOME SCATTERED UNINHABITED BITS, PAGAN IS THE NORTHERNMOST OF THE MARIANAS CHAIN. DESCENT FOR LANDING OFFERED GOOD VIEW OF TWO LAKES, ONE OF WARM SULPHUROUS CONTENT, AND BLACK SAND PEACH AREA IDENTIFIED AS PROJECTED LOCATION OF KEN JONES' HOTEL AND RESORT. DEVELOPMENT OF ANY SUCH COMPLEX WILL TAKE CONSIDERABLE EFFORT.

4. LANDING STRIP OF CRUSHED CORAL, PARTLY GRASS GROWN WAS BUILT BY THE JAPANESE WHO BASED SOME BOMBERS THERE. ITS PRESENT USE IS MADE POSSIBLE BY WORK OF A USAF CONSTRUCTION TEAM WHICH HAS LEFT BEHIND NOT ONLY A USABLE AIRSTRIP BUT A STURDY WAREHOUSE, CONSPICUOUS IN CONTRAST TO THE GENERALLY DERELICT STRUCTURES ON THE ISLAND. WE WERE TOLD THAT AT ONE TIME 2-3000 JAPANESE FORCES WERE STATIONED ON THE ISLAND. VESTIGES OF THE JAPANESE OCCUPATION WERE TRACES OF CONCRETE WATER CATCHMENTS AND A SHELL-POCKED MONUMENT OF SOME SORT.

5. FOUR HOUR VISIT AND PARTIAL TOUR OF PAGAN COULD ONLY GIVE SUBSTANCE TO SENATOR BORJA'S PLEAS (WHICH HE SEEMED TO HAVE MADE IN ONLY RATHER PRO-FORMA FASHION) FOR AID FOR THE NORTHERN ISLANDS. PAGAN'S POPULATION OF 62 PERSONS, MOST OF WHOM APPEAR TO

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BE OF CAROLINIAN DESCENT, CAN ONLY BE DESCRIBED AS LIVING IN CONDITION OF SQUALOR DESPITE THEIR TRAVEL-POSTER SURROUNDINGS OF

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OF DILAPIDATED QUONSET-TYPE SHELTERS, THE
INSIDE AND WITH RUSTING PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT IN A WAEED-GROWN YARD.
THE DISPENSARY NEARBY WAS IN EVEN WORSE SHAPE FROM THE EXTERIOR
ALTHOUGH WE DID NOT GET INSIDE. THE LITTLE CHAPEL, A STURDY
CONCRETE STRUCTURE, DOUBLES AS TYPHOON SHELTER.

6. THERE IS NO OPERABLE TRANSPORTATION ON THE ISLAND WITH THE
EXCEPTION OF SOME SMALL PULL-CARTS AND AN AGEING JOHN DEERE TRAC-
TOR. CLINGING TO THE LATTER WE WERE DRIVEN TO THE LAKES BY TWO
OBLIGING AND COMPETENT YOUNG BOYS ALONG ROUGH TRAILS BUMPING OVER
HARD LAVA ROCK OR SLOSHING THROUGH DEEP BLACK MUD. FOR MOST OF
THE WAY WE WERE WITHIN THE BIG CRATER BOWL OF A ONE-TIME VOLCANO, AN
AREA OF HIGH GRASS, IRONWOOD TREES (THE SO-CALLED MICRONESIAN PINE)
AND SCRUB. A DISTRESSING FEATURE WAS CONSTANT PRESENCE OF SWARMS
OF BLACK FLIES WHICH MADE THIS AREA, AND MUCH OF THE
ISLAND, EXCEEDINGLY UNCOMFORTABLE. NO ONE CAME UP WITH A PLAUS-
IBLE EXPLANATION OF THEIR PRESENCE IN SUCH NUMBER, BUT ANY

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DEVELOPMENT OF PAGAN WOULD CERTAINLY REQUIRE INVESTIGATION
INTO THIS UNPLEASANT FEATURE.

7. ON OUR TOUR WE SAW A FLOURISHING FIELD OF PINEAPPLE AND
HEAVILY BEARING MANGO TREES. IN THE COURSE OF CONVERSATION
WITH THE CITIZENS GATHERED IN A LITTLE THATCH-SHADED PAVILION
ABOVE THE BLACK SAND BEACH, DISTADREP CASTRO ASKED CDR. WESTLAKE
IF MILITARY ON GUAM WOULD LIKE TO BUY SOME PAGAN PINEAPPLE.
NOTING THE PARTICULARLY FINE SPECIMENS PRESENTED TO US, WESTLAKE
SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO MATTER AND THOUGHT IT LIKELY MILITARY
COULD TAKE WHATEVER QUANTITY OF PINEAPPLES PAGAN PREPARED TO
DELIVER. CASTRO THOUGHT THIS COULD BE 200 EACH WEEK BUT STRESSED
CHRONIC TRANSPORTATION DIFFICULTIES IN SITUATION WHERE FIELD
TRIP SHIP CALLS ONLY FOUR TIMES A YEAR. WESTLAKE SAID HE
WOULD EXPLORE USE OF SMALL VESSEL ACQUIRED FOR SUCH PURPOSES
BY DELA CRUZ FAMILY IN TINIAN. CASTRO, WHO SEEMED ENERGETIC AND
INTERESTED IN IMPROVING THINGS ON PAGAN, NOTED THAT PINEAPPLE
CROPS COULD BE STAGGERED TO INCREASE SEASONAL AVAILABILITY.

8. IN ANSWER TO OUR QUERY INTO LAND HOLDINGS AND FARM SYSTEM,
CASTRO EXPLAINED THAT ALL OF PAGAN IS PUBLIC LAND AND ALTHOUGH

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IT HAS BEEN DECLARED ELIGIBLE FOR HOMESTEADING, NO SURVEYING

DECLARED

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HAS EVER BEEN DONE. NO HOMESTEAD APPLICATIONS HAVE THEREFORE BEEN INITIATED AND PEOPLE FEEL VERY DISCOURAGED ABOUT HAVING NO LAND OF THEIR OWN EVEN AFTER THEY HAVE WORKED IT FOR YEARS. CASTRO SAID THEY WERE ESPECIALLY DISHAYED WHEN KEN JONES WAS GIVEN PERMISSION TO LEASE LAND ON PAGAN FOR HIS HOTEL, WHILE THERE IS STILL NO SIGN THAT PEOPLE OF PAGAN CAN ACTUALLY ACQUIRE THEIR OWN LAND (BY LEASE OR OWNERSHIP).

9. ASKED ABOUT COPRA MAKING, ONE YOUNG MAN SAID PROUDLY THAT HE AND A FRIEND HAD PREPARED TWO BAGS OF COPRA WITHIN PAST DAY OR TWO. MARKET PRICE, HE NOTED IS GOOD, BUT NO SHIPS TO MOVE IT. THIS, HE OBSERVED, DISCOURAGED COPRA MAKING.

10. PAGAN HAS ELECTRICITY - A FEW HOURS EACH DAY - OR NIGHT FROM A SMALL POWER PLANT. THE ISLAND IS ALMOST BEYOND THE RANGE OF RADIO SAIPAN, BUT CAN NEVERTHELESS PICK UP SOME BROADCASTS. THE WEEKLY CESSNA FLIGHT NOW BRINGS MAIL AND COPIES OF THE PACIFIC DAILY NEWS FROM GUAM. ANSWERING A QUESTION, CASTRO SAID MNS RELEASES ARE NOT RECEIVED.

11. MOST PEOPLE WE SAW, EXCEPT THE VERY OLD, SEEMED TO UNDERSTAND ENGLISH. THEY SHOWED LITTLE INTEREST HOWEVER IN MENTION OF STATUS LMO OF RECENT MARIANAS STATUS TALKS. CASTRO WAS INTERESTED

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