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VISIONS OF E.O. 12355 BY
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FROM: CINCPACREP GUAM/TIPI MARIANAS ISLANDS
TO: SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC
INFO: COMTWELVE SAN FRANCISCO CA
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
US MISSION TO UN NEW YORK NY.

NOV 18 1974

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FROM STATUS LNO 335C

PASS OMSN AND INTERIOR FOR DOTA

COMTWELVE FOR AMB WILLIAMS

CINCPAC FOR FOIAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV TQ

SUBJECT: NEXT MARIANAS STATUS MEETING

REF: SCOTT(OMSN)-BERGESEN TELECON NOV 16

1. LAST WEEKEND SAW SENATOR-ELECT PETE TENORIO, TERRITORIAL PARTY
EMINENCE GRISE FRANK PALACIOS AND MARIANAS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE
"PRESIDENT" BEN SANTOS POLITICKING AND PULSE FEELING ON TINIAN AND
ROTA. CONSEQUENTLY IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO CONTACT THEM UNTIL MONDAY
NOV 18.
2. STATUS LNO MADE SUBSTANTIALLY SAME PITCH TO ALL THREE MEN, PER
INSTRUCTIONS (REF). IT APPEARS THAT LEADERS OF TWO PARTIES ARE STILL
SPEAKING TO EACH OTHER THOUGH SANTOS, UNDERSTANDABLY, IS UNHAPPY ABOUT
ELECTION RESULTS WHICH, HE ALLEGES, STEMMED FROM TERRITORIAL PARTY'S
RECRUITMENT OF SOME 500 NON-MARIANAN VOTERS TO REGISTER AND VOTE IN
THIS DISTRICT, A NUMBER (IF THEY DID IN FACT VOTE TERRITORIAL) MORE
THAN ENOUGH TO ACCOUNT FOR THE DEFEAT OF SEN. FANGELINAN (BY 980 VOTES)

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AND REP. HERMAN Q. GUERRERO (BY 284 VOTES). HOWEVER, GUERRERO, WHO IS ALSO POLYNESIA PARTY CHAIRMAN, ANNOUNCED NOV 18 THAT HIS PARTY WOULD NOT CONTEST RETURNS.

3. DR. PALACIOS' BASIC PITCH WAS THAT WISHES OF PEOPLE HAD TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT MORE THAN WAS THE CASE IN THE PAST. PEOPLE OF TINIAN AND ROTA DO NOT YET FULLY UNDERSTAND ARRANGEMENTS BEING MADE; UNLESS AND UNTIL THEY DO, IT WOULD BE MISTAKE TO CONCLUDE STATUS AGREEMENT, AS PEOPLE WOULD REJECT IT IN PLEBISCITE. CHAMORROS WERE UNLIKELY TO ACCEPT PROMULGATED AGREEMENT, BUT WOULD HAVE TO BE BROUGHT ALONG GRADUALLY SO THAT CONSENSUS EMERGED AS NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUED. PEOPLE OF ROTA AND TINIAN WERE ALSO INCLINED, HE THOUGHT, TO DIG IN THEIR HEELS ON ESSENTIALLY NON-STATUS PROBLEMS LIKE HOMESTEAD PROGRAM AND WAR CLAIMS. PALACIOS' POINT AS I UNDERSTOOD IT WAS THAT THESE ISSUES ARE IMPORTANT TO PEOPLE AS PART OF THEIR PRESENT AND FUTURE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE US, AND UNTIL THEY WERE RESOLVED PEOPLE OF MARIANAS WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO ENTER INTO PERMANENT RELATIONSHIP WITH US. PALACIOS THOUGHT IF WE COULD GET STARTED ON HOMESTEAD PROGRAM PEOPLE COULD BE PERSUADED ON STATUS--IT WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY TO COMPLETE PROGRAM BEFORE AGREEMENT COULD BE CONCLUDED. HE ALSO SAID PEOPLE ON TINIAN WISH TO LEASE HOMESTEADS INSIDE MILITARY AREA, RATHER THAN SEEK EXCHANGE PLOTS. DR. PALACIOS SAID THAT PUBLIC LANDS SHOULD OF COURSE BE RETURNED TO "LOCAL GOVERNMENT" BEFORE A NEW STATUS AGREEMENT WAS CONCLUDED, BUT HE WAS WILLING TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS IN MEANTIME. HE CONCLUDED IT WOULD PROBABLY BE SATISFACTORY TO MEET DEC 2 BUT NOT FOR PURPOSE OF CONCLUDING AGREEMENT.

4. PETE TENORIO COVERED SOME OF SAME GROUND, NOTING THAT WAR CLAIMS, LIKE RETURN OF PUBLIC LANDS AND HOMESTEADING, ARE ISSUES INVOLVING USC WHICH ARE DIFFICULT FOR PEOPLE NOT TO MIX IN WITH STATUS ISSUES.

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HE WAS ALSO PERTURBED AT EFFORTS WHICH "SOME" WERE MAKING TO COMPRESS PRESENT SIX TO TWELVE MONTH PERIOD FOR EDUCATION PRIOR TO PLEBISCITE TO THREE MONTHS. PETE SAID HE HAD BEEN WORKING ON LAND COMMITTEE REPORT AND WANTED JIM WILSON TO GET IN TOUCH WITH HIM ABOUT IT.

AS
5. DESPITE HIS PARTY'S LOSSES IN ELECTION BEN SANTOS WAS ALMOST/PEISTY AND CONFIDENT AS EVER. HE DOES HAVE PROBLEM WITH PUBLIC LANDS ISSUE; HIS LEGISLATORS RESENTED VETO OF THEIR LAND RETURN BILL AND SANTOS CONFIRMED HE DID NOT PROPOSE TO RAISE ISSUE AGAIN UNTIL NEXT REGULAR SESSION OF DISTRICT LEGISLATURE IN FEBRUARY. HE SAID LEGISLATORS FRANKLY DID NOT LIKE NON-RETURN OF RETENTION LANDS AND NON-RETURN OF LANDS DESIGNATED FOR PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS. SANTOS NOTED FELIPE SALAS, WHO WAS REP OF DISTRICT LEGISLATURE ON MPSC, HAD RESIGNED (HE HAS BEEN APPOINTED A JUDGE); SANTOS PROMISED HE'D BE REPLACED BY A "GOOD MAN." SANTOS CONTINUES TO PREFER THAT DECEMBER MEETING BE SIGNING MEETING BUT INDICATED SLIPPAGE OF NO MORE THAN THREE MONTHS MIGHT BE ACCEPTABLE. HOWEVER, MPSC'S MANDATE WAS TO MOVE AND IF IT DIDN'T DISTRICT LEGISLATURE MIGHT REORGANIZE IT.

ONE SURPRISING BIT OF NEWS PALACIOS TOLD ME WAS THAT TINIAN MUNICIPAL
6. ~~THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL HAD (SUNDAY NOV 17) VOTED JOE CRUZ AND BERNARD HOFSCHEIDER OFF~~

COUNCIL HAD (SUNDAY NOV 17) VOTED JOE CRUZ AND BERNARD HOFSCHEIDER OFF THE MPSC, REPLACING THEM WITH VICENTE (BEN) MANGLONA (FROM TINIAN, NOT THE ROCA BEN MANGLONA) AND RICHARD HOFSCHEIDER, BERNARD'S NEPHEW.

IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT THIS RESOLUTION CANNOT BE IMPLEMENTED UNTIL ITS SECOND READING, AT THE REGULAR MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MEETING ON NOV. 27.

HOWEVER, THERE MAY BE LESS TO THIS THAN MEETS THE EYE. ONE SOURCE TOLD ME LAST NIGHT (NOV 19) THAT THERE HAD BEEN FURTHER CONSIDERATION THAT AFTERNOON OF CASE OF CRUZ AND HOPFSCHNEIDER, THAT THEY HAD AGREED TO NEW CONDITIONS (UNSPECIFIED), AND WOULD BE RETAINED ON MPSC. WILL REPORT FURTHER.

7. EDDIE PANGELINAN IS IN MANILA AND NO ONE SEEMS SURE WHEN HE PLANS TO RETURN. MARIANAS VARIETY NOV 15 CARRIED ARTICLE QUOTING SAIPAN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL SPEAKER VICENTE CAMACHO AS "CONFIRMING HIS PLANS TO RESIGN FROM MPSC TO PERMIT PANGELINAN TO REMAIN WITH COMMISSION." BEN SANTOS TOLD ME THIS POSSIBILITY BEING DISCUSSED, BUT IT HAS NOT YET HAPPENED.

8. FROM CONVERSATIONS NOV 18 AND 19 IT APPEARS THAT BOTH TERRITORIAL AND POPULAR PARTY LEADERS ON MPSC ARE WILLING TO GO AHEAD WITH DEC 2 MEETING HERE, BUT THAT IT SHOULD NOT BE BILLED AS, NOR IS IT LIKELY TO DEVELOP INTO, A SIGNING MEETING. NEW INTERNAL RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN MPSC ARE BEING WORKED OUT BUT I CONSIDER COMMISSION FRAGILE AT PRESENT. IDEA OF PRELIMINARY INFORMAL MEETING IN GUAM JUST BEFORE DEC 2 MEETING HERE WAS FLOATED; PRELIMINARY REACTION NOT UNFAVORABLE, BUT QUESTION OF WHO SHOULD ATTEND MAY PROVE TROUBLESOME.

BERGENSEN

Dictated by: Status LNO: Alf E. Bergesen:lav 11/19-20/74

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