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5,4

HICOMTERPACIS SAIPAN
MARIANA ISLANDS

UNCLASSIFIED

STATUS LNO
SCOTT 12/6/74

SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC

PRIORITY

FROM STATUS LNO 347

PASS IMMEDIATELY TO INTERIOR FOR ROYSTON HUGHES, ASS'T SECRETARY OF
INTERIOR, FROM AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS

1. WITH CARPENTER ABSENT FROM WASHINGTON I AM REQUESTING YOUR
ASSISTANCE ON A MATTER OF IMMEDIATE CONCERN. RECENT REPORTS INDICATE
THAT PROSPECTS FOR HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE ACTION THIS SESSION ON
FY-75 TTPI AUTHORIZATION BILL UNLIKELY. AS YOU KNOW, THIS AUTHORIZATION
BILL CONTAINS PROVISION FOR MARIANAS TRANSITION IN AMOUNT OF \$1.5
MILLION. CONGRESSIONAL INACTION ON THIS PARTICULAR AUTHORIZATION
THIS SESSION
CHUENDESSUEN COULD RESULT IN UNACCEPTABLE DELAYS IN SECURING FUNDS
FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF JOINT TRANSITION SECRETARIAT
IN SAIPAN ONCE THE POLITICAL STATUS AGREEMENT HAS BEEN SIGNED. THIS
COULD OCCUR EARLY NEXT YEAR.

2. I WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF YOU WOULD CONTACT CHAIRMAN BUTRON AND
RELAY MY EXPRESSION OF CONCERN. IF YOU CONSIDER IT DESIRABLE I WOULD
ALSO BE WILLING TO CONTACT HIM DIRECTLY. IT IS PARTICULARLY
IMPORTANT THAT I BE IN A POSITION TO DISCUSS TRANSITION TIMING WITH
THE MPSC DURING THE ONGOING STATUS NEGOTIATIONS IN SAIPAN WHICH ARE
EXPECTED TO CONTINUE UNTIL ABOUT DEC 19, 1974. AVAILABILITY OF THE
\$1.5 MILLION IS KEY ELEMENT IN OUR ABILITY TO CONCLUDE THIS ROUND
SUCCESSFULLY. WILLIAMS SENDS. BERGESEN

LNO

03- 032525