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INFO 00/01/03/SDO/N3
TOR 121609Z DEC 74/20

P 121235Z DEC 74
FM CINCPACREP GUAM TTPI MARIANAS ISLANDS
TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC
SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
US MISSION TO UN NEW YORK NY
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SECDEF ALSO FOR DEPSECDEF
PASS OMSN AND INTERIOR/DOIA
CINCPAC FOR POLAD
FROM STATUS LNO 350C
E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV TO

SUBJECT: MARIANAS V: FIRST WEEK (U)
FROM AMBASSADOR HAYDN WILLIAMS

SUMMARY: (C) INFORMAL TALKS BEGINNING DEC 2 AND FORMAL SESSIONS
FROM DEC 5 HAVE ACHIEVED CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION
OF COVENANT FORMALIZING NORTHERN MARIANAS-U.S. RELATIONS,
BUT CHANGE IN DOD POSITION ON TINIAN UTILIZATION ANNOUNCED TO
MPSC ON DEC 19 HAS CAUSED SERIOUS PROBLEMS FOR MARIANAS SIDE WITH
UNPREDICTABLE BUT PROBABLE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES FOR FUTURE
COURSE OF NEGOTIATIONS.

1. (C) BEGINNING WITH ARRIVAL AMB WILLIAMS AND PARTY AFTERNOON
DEC 2 U.S. NEGOTIATORS MET WITH A NUMBER OF MARIANAS LEADERS
IN INFORMAL SESSIONS, BOTH TO TAKE READING ON TEMPER OF
MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION FOLLOWING NOV 5 SENATORIAL
DEFEAT OF MPSC CHAIRMAN PANGELINAN AND TO SEEK TO ALLEVIATE
CONTENTIOUS PROBLEMS NOT DIRECTLY STATUS-RELATED SUCH AS TINIAN T
HOMESTEADING.

2. (C) POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE IN WAKE OF ELECTIONS SEEMED FAVORABLE.
MPSC, THOUGH DIVIDED ON PARTY LINES FOLLOWING ELECTION,
PRINCIPALLY ON ISSUE OF PACE OF NEGOTIATIONS AND WHETHER MARIANAS
V COULD BE THE FINAL SIGNING ROUND, SEEMED TO HAVE PULLED ITSELF
TOGETHER WELL UNDER PANGELINAN'S CONTINUED CHAIRMANSHIP. IT
APPEARED IN FACT THAT DELAY IN SIGNING SOUGHT BY TERRITORIAL
PARTY WAS IN LARGE MEASURE A QUESTION OF PRESTIGE ACCURRING TO
PROSPECTIVE SIGNERS. AT NO POINT HAVE TERRITORIAL LEADERS
SERIOUSLY QUESTIONED COMMONWEALTH OBJECTIVE.

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3. (C) IN MEETING BETWEEN HICOM, DISTAD, MPSC AND MDL CHAIRED BY DISTAD DEC 4 AND ORGANIZED AT WILLIAMS'S INITIATIVE GENERAL AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON PROCEEDING MORE RAPIDLY ON PROCESSING MARIANAS HOMESTEAD APPLICATIONS. AGREEMENT WAS GREATLY FACILITATED BY HICOM'S OFFER TO MAKE AVAILABLE UP TO THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS TO ACCELERATE NECESSARY SURVEYS. ALTHOUGH THERE WAS SOME T DISSENSION ON MARIANAS SIDE BECAUSE TINIAN REPS SOUGHT TO INSIST ON COMMITMENT TO ABSOLUTE PRIORITY FOR TINIAN SURVEYS, AGREEMENT REACHED SEEMED TO HAVE DEFUSED PROBLEM AT LEAST FOR PRESENT.
4. (C) THERE HAVE BEEN THREE FORMAL SESSIONS ON DECEMBER 5, 6 AND 9 DEVOTED TO AN EXAMINATION OF DRAFT "COVEANT", A TITLE TO WHICH MPSC HAS NOW AGREED. REAL PROGRESS WAS MADE IN REACHING AGREEMENT AND REMAINING ISSUES SEEM NEGOTIABLE GIVEN WILL ON BOTH SIDES TO CARRY THROUGH TO COMPLETION.
5. (C) PANGELINAN TOLD WILLIAMS THAT ELEVEN MPSC MEMBERS MET ON DEC 9 AND AGREED TO MAKE MAJOR CONCESSIONS TO US IN EFFORT TO ACHIEVE FINAL AGREEMENT THIS SESSION AND HAD DETERMINED TO MAKE SPECIAL EFFORT TO PERSUADE THREE "GO-SLOWER" MEMBERS (TENORIO, PALACIOUS AND RABAUIMAN) TO AGREE WITH OTHERS. HOWEVER, INTRODUCTION OF RADICALLY CHANGED DOD PLANNING FOR USE OF TINIAN IN COURSE OF WILLIAMS' PRESENTATION ON MILITARY LAND REQUIREMENTS ON DEC 10, CAST PALL ON ENTIRE NEGOTIATION. MPSC CLEARLY WAS COUNTING IMPLICITLY ON DIRECT AND INDIRECT DEFENSE EXPENDITURES TO INSURE INCOME BOTH FOR RESIDENTS OF TINIAN AND FOR MARIANAS GOVERNMENT AS SET FORTH PREVIOUSLY BY CRESTED ISLE BRIEFINGS BY AIR FORCE. THUS INDEFINITE POSTPONEMENT OF CONSTRUCTION ON TINIAN AND DECISION NOT TO STATION U.S. FORCES THERE IN LARGE NUMBERS HAS BEEN A MAJOR SHOCK TO MARIANAS NEGOTIATORS.
6. (C) AS A RESULT IT IS NOW PLAIN THAT THEIR COMMITMENT TO SATISFYING OUR REQUIREMENT FOR TWO-THIRDS OF TINIAN IS IN CONSIDERABLE PERIL. PANGELINAN SAID YESTERDAY MANY MEMBERS ARE SAYING ONE THIRD OR ONE HALF OF TINIAN WILL BE ALL MPSC WILL AGREE TO NOW. AT THE MOMENT WE ARE AWAITING FURTHER OFFICIAL WORD FROM MPSC ON SUBJECT.
7. (C) U.S. INTRODUCED IN PLENARY U.S. POSITION ON MODALITIES AND PRICE OF LAND ACQUISITION TODAY (DEC 12) WITH NO VISIBLY ENTHUSIASTIC RESPONSE FROM GLUM MPSC MEMBERS. WE ARE, OF COURSE, WELL AWARE OF IMPORTANCE MPSC ATTACHES TO OBTAINING A MAXIMUM RETURN, AND AT BEST HAD ANTICIPATED DIFFICULT NEGOTIATIONS TO SATISFY OUR REQUIREMENTS. WITH CHANGE IN PROPOSED UTILIZATION WE MAY WELL MEET WITH A RADICAL NEW MARIANAS APPROACH.

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