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 COMTWELVE FOR AMB WILLIAMS
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 SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS' VISIT TO SAIPAN JAN 29-30 Y T T P I

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1. (C) SUMMARY: IN COURSE OF 36-HOUR VISIT TO SAIPAN JAN 29-30, AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS (ACCOMPANIED BY STATUS LNO) MET IN SEPARATE SESSIONS WITH LEADERSHIP OF JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS (JCFS); MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION (MPSC) AND CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA (COM). HE ALSO HAD 1 1/2 HOUR SESSION WITH MEMBERS OF MPSC AND COM. WITHIN RESPECTIVE CONTEXTS HE TOOK OCCASION TO DISCUSS TENTATIVE TIMETABLE FOR CONTINUING STATUS NEGOTIATIONS AND TO INCLUDE INTO VIEWS CONCERNING RELEVANT ISSUES. WITH RESPECT TO TWO STATUS BODIES CONTINUING MOMENTUM WAS APPARENT. BOTH WANT TO KEEP MOVING AHEAD AND CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS WAS MADE IN LAYING DOWN SCHEDULE OVER NEXT 3-4 MONTHS. THERE ARE HOWEVER SIGNS OF SOME RELUCTANCE TO

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BEING PUSHED TOO FAST. BOTH CONGRESS AND THE ADMINISTRATION ARE UNDER TTPI-WIDE CRITICISM FOR HAVING NEGLECTED TO KEEP PEOPLE INFORMED ON STATUS MATTERS. THIS MESSAGE SUMMARIZES CONVERSATIONS. FULLER MEMCONS UNDER PREPARATION. END SUMMARY.

2. (C) IN MEETING WITH JCFS CHAIRMAN SEN SALII AND CO-CHAIRMAN CONGRESSMAN SILK EVENING JAN 29 AMBASSADOR SKETCHED FOLLOWING TENTATIVE TIMETABLE: MID-MARCH MEETING OF PRINCIPALS (AMBASSADOR-WILSON/SALII-SILK) PROBABLY ON WEST COAST TO WORK ON REMAINING ISSUES IN DRAFT COMPACT; FOLLOWED BY CONSULTATION IN RESPECTIVE HOME AREAS.

I.E. SALII'S CONSULTATION WITH FULL JCFS AND OTHER ELEMENTS ESPECIALLY INVOLVED; MID-APRIL, SECOND MEETING OF PRINCIPALS TO REVIEW INTERIM CONSULTATIONS, DO FINAL DRAFTING AND LAY PLANS FOR FORMAL ROUND (MICRO VIII). AMBASSADOR, WITH SALII AGREEING, THOUGHT BOTH SECOND PRELIMINARY MEETING AND MICRO VIII SHOULD BE HELD IN MICRONESIA, TIME AND PLACE OF LATTER TO BE DETERMINED LATER AT APRIL MEETING OF PRINCIPALS IF PROSPECTS SEEM PROMISING.

3. (C) PROBING SALII'S VIEWS ON FURTHER SEQUENCE OF EVENTS, AMBASSADOR REFERRED TO SALII'S TESTIMONY CONCERNING THE PROSPECTIVE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION AND THE PROPOSAL THAT IT SHOULD CONVENE IN APRIL 1975. (STATUS LND 16C.) SALII SAID HE PERSONALLY WAS THINKING IN TERMS OF A SEVEN-YEAR TIME FRAME BEGINNING WITH ELECTION OF DELEGATES IN NOVEMBER 1974. HE FORESEES REFERENDUM ON CONSTITUTION IN 1976, AND POSSIBLY PLEBISCITE ON STATUS AS WELL, FOLLOWED BY FIVE-YEAR PHASED PROGRAM LEADING TO FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF CONSTITUTION AND END OF THE TRUSTEESHIP. HE POINTED OUT THAT UNDER JCFS PROPOSAL OF 10 YEAR PERIOD, TIMING HE HAD OUTLINED WOULD PROVIDE TOTAL PERIOD OF 17 YEARS FROM NOW BEFORE ANY UNILATERAL TERMINATION COULD COME INTO EFFECT. (IN ADDITION THERE WOULD BE 2 YEAR GRACE PERIOD.) HE DID NOT PURSUE THIS POINT OR SPEAK SPECIFICALLY AGAINST U.S.

POSITION CALLING FOR 15 YEAR PERIOD.

4. (C) IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION JAN 30 WITH SALII AND SILK, AMBASSADOR RAISED SUBJECT OF REPORTS OF JCFS SUB-COMMITTEES. SALII SAID THE TWO SUB-COMMITTEES WILL COME UP WITH AN OVERALL REPORT TO BE PRESENTED TO COM.

5. (C) THE AMBASSADOR SAID IT MIGHT NOW BE TIME TO MOVE AHEAD ON THE LONG-PLANNED SURVEY FOR U.S. MILITARY OPTIONS IN PALAU AND SEND TEAM TO CARRY OUT SUCH SURVEY. SALII AGREED BUT SUGGESTED THAT IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO WAIT UNTIL AFTER ADJOURNMENT OF CONGRESS (MARCH 4)

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HE POINTED OUT THAT THIS TIMING WOULD PERMIT HIM AND FELLOW SENATOR THETUCL TO BE ON HAND. AMB WILLIAMS SUGGESTED LAST PART OF MARCH OR EARLY APRIL. SALII SAID HE SAW NO OBJECTION AND WOULD DISCUSS THIS WITH IBEDUL AND REKLA WHO ARE COMING SHORTLY TO SAIPAN. AMBASSADOR REVIEWED ROUND VII IN THIS REGARD, QUOTED FROM PROCEEDINGS, AND POINTED TO COMMITMENT OF JCFS AND PALAUAN DELEGATION TO NEGOTIATE IN GOOD FAITH THE MILITARY REQUIREMENTS IN ANNEX B OF DRAFT COMPACT. BOTH SALII AND SILK AGREED THAT JCFS AND PALAUAN DELEGATION HAD AGREED TO MEET U.S. MILITARY LAND REQUIREMENTS AS SET FORTH ANNEX B AND CONSIDERED MATTER NO LONGER AT ISSUE.

6. (C) AT WORKING LUNCH JAN 30 AMBASSADOR REVIEWED WITH CHAIRMAN

PANGELINAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN SANTOS POST-MARIANAS III DEVELOPMENTS. PANGELINAN AND SANTOS SPOKE ENTHUSIASTICALLY OF MPSC POLITICAL EDUCATION EFFORTS (STATUS LNO 25C), AND EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE IN FUTURE OF EVOLVING COMMONWEALTH PROPOSAL. IN RESPONSE TO A COMMENT FROM THE AMBASSADOR ON THE DESIRABILITY OF ELICITING FROM ROTA A FIRM UN-EQUIVOCAL STATEMENT OF ITS SUPPORT FOR MPSC OBJECTIVES, BOTH PANGELINAN AND SANTOS EXPRESSED SOME IMPATIENCE WITH ROTA SITUATION AND POINTED OUT THAT MONEY WAS ROOT OF THE PROBLEM IN THIS INTRA-MARIANAS RELATIONSHIP. BUT THEY WERE FIRM IN THEIR INSISTENCE THAT ROTANESE WOULD CHOOSE CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH U.S. AND U.S. CITIZENSHIP.

7. (C) CONCERNING MPSC MEETING SCHEDULED TINIAN FEB 9, PANGELINAN FELT IT PREFERABLE THAT MPSC ALONE BE PRESENT WITH PEOPLE OF TINIAN BUT THOUGHT MEETING WOULD OPEN WAY FOR SUBSEQUENT VISIT BY U.S. REPRESENTATIVES.

8. (C) CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN SPOKE WITH NO SURPRISE BUT WITH CONSIDERABLE IRRITATION CONCERNING COM OPPOSITION TO SEPARATE MARIANAS NEGOTIATIONS. PANGELINAN SAID TIME HAS COME FOR MARIANAS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE TO REQUEST U.S. TO SEPARATE MARIANAS DISTRICT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PURPOSES. SANTOS AGREED AND THOUGHT ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN

BY MDL AT FORTHCOMING SESSION CONVENING FEB 4. PANGELINAN POINTED OUT THAT LATER SPECIAL SESSION COULD BE CALLED. HE SUGGESTED THAT IN LATER MEETING SAME AFTERNOON AMBASSADOR DISCUSS THIS SUBJECT WITH MPSC. AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT OF COURSE THIS ACTION SHOULD BE WEIGHED VERY CAREFULLY AND, GIVEN ITS IMPORTANT IMPLICATIONS, HE SUGGESTED THAT IT BE DISCUSSED WITH WILSON DUE TO ARRIVE SHORTLY. RECALLING PANGELINAN'S EARLIER RELUCTANCE ABOUT SUCH A MOVE AS HE

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WAS NOT SUGGESTING. AMBASSADOR STRESSED IT ESSENTIAL THAT IT BE INITIATED BY MARIANAS, AND THAT SUCH ORIGIN BE VERY CLEAR.

9. (C) AS TO TIMING FOR ON-GOING MARIANAS STATUS DEVELOPMENTS, AMBASSADOR AND PANGELINAN AGREED TO NEW DUE DATE OF MARCH 15 FOR REPORT OF AD HOC COMMITTEE AND THOUGHT IT LOOKED FEASIBLE FOR THEM TO MEET, PROBABLY IN WASHINGTON, IN EARLY APRIL TO GO OVER THE REPORT AND PLAN FOR MARIANAS IV TO TAKE PLACE LATE APRIL-MAY.

10. (C) IN COURSE OF MEETING WITH 7 MEMBERS OF MPSC AFTERNOON JAN 30, AMBASSADOR WAS AGAIN CONFRONTED WITH COMPLAINTS THAT ADMINISTRATION HAS TAKEN NO ACTION ON PRE-MAY 8 HOMESTEAD APPLICATIONS FOR TINIAN. PARTICIPATING IN MEETING WERE TINIAN MAYOR BORJA AND SPEAKER AND VICE SPEAKER OF MUNICIPAL COUNCIL. AMBASSADOR EXPLAINED HE HAD AGAIN PRESSED FOR ACTION BY THE ADMINISTRATION IN THIS MATTER IN LINE WITH

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FINAL SECTION OF 02
 THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S MEMORANDUM OF DECEMBER 14.
 11. (C) MPSC MEMBERS WERE WORRIED NOT ONLY ABOUT RISING TIDE OF COM
 OPPOSITION TO MARIANAS' DECISION TO SEPARATE AND GO FOR COMMONWEALTH
 STATUS, BUT ALSO ABOUT WHAT THEY FEEL IS RELUCTANCE OF TTP1 ADMINIS-
 TRATION TO TAKE COGNIZANCE OF THIS DEVELOPMENT.
 12. (C) MORNING JAN 30 AMBASSADOR CALLED ON SENATE PRESIDENT NAKAYAMA
 AND HOUSE SPEAKER HENRY IN OFFICE OF LATTER. AMBASSADOR REFERRED TO
 TENTATIVE TIMETABLE OF FUTURE MICRONESIAN POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT,
 NOTING SALII'S SEVEN-YEAR PROJECTION. NAKAYAMA INDICATED HE WAS NOT

THINKING IN TERMS OF ANY FIXED SCHEDULE AND THOUGHT STEPS SHOULD BE
 TAKEN AS FAST AS POSSIBLE. HE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT IN FINANCIAL
 TALKS WITH JCFS, U.S. PROPOSALS ARE IN TERMS OF ONLY FIVE DISTRICTS.
 13. (C) NAKAYAMA WAS HOSTILE TO SEPARATISM AND ESPECIALLY TO U.S.
 SEPARATE NEGOTIATIONS WITH MARIANAS. HE SAID PEOPLE OF MARIANAS
 SHOULD HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO DECIDE TO REMAIN WITH MICRONESIA.
 AMBASSADOR COMMENTED THAT MARIANAS ALSO WOULD FAVOR UNITY IF OTHER
 DISTRICTS SHOULD OPT FOR COMMONWEALTH. NAKAYAMA SAID COM HAS ALREADY
 REJECTED COMMONWEALTH AS AN OPTION, AND ALL MICRONESIANS SHOULD BE
 OFFERED TWO ALTERNATIVES: FREE ASSOCIATION OR INDEPENDENCE. BETH-
 HENRY DECLINED TO TAKE POSITION WHEN AMBASSADOR QUERIED HIM FOR HIS

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VIEWS ON THIS POINT. IN LEAVING, AMBASSADOR REMARKED THAT HE WAS AWARE OF NAKAYAMA'S STRONG FEELING THAT MICRONESIA SHOULD MOVE RAPIDLY TOWARD SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND THAT IN THE FUTURE IT SHOULD LIVE WITHIN ITS MEANS, A COMMENT WHICH BROUGHT A RATHER WAN SMILE FROM NAKAYAMA.

14. (C) ASKED BY THE AMBASSADOR AS TO THEIR PRINCIPAL IMMEDIATE CONCERNS FOR MICRONESIA, BOTH PRESIDENT AND SPEAKER REPLIED AS ONE: THE SHIPPING SITUATION. MENTION OF THIS APPARENTLY CRUCIAL PROBLEM, WHICH WAS RAISED IN ALMOST EVERY SUBSTANTIVE CONVERSATION IN WHICH THE

AMBASSADOR PARTICIPATED, BROUGHT THE SUGGESTION THAT THE PROBLEM MAY HAVE TO BE TAKEN OUT OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S HANDS; IT MAY BE TOO BIG FOR HANDLING IN THAT WAY AND SOLUTION MAY HAVE TO BE FOUND ELSEWHERE.

15. (C) COMMENT: AMBASSADOR'S DISCUSSIONS FOCUSING ON STATUS MATTERS PROVIDED TANGIBLE ASSURANCE OF U.S. INTENTION AND ACTIVITY IN MOVING AHEAD, AND POINTED UP THE NEED FOR A WILL ON BOTH SIDES, IN BOTH NEGOTIATIONS, TO PRESS AHEAD TOWARD AN AGREED GOAL. DIVERSIONARY EFFORTS, INTRODUCTION OF EXTRANEUS ISSUES AND TEMPORIZING DELAYS (SUCH AS ARE LIKELY TO OCCUR IN CONNECTION WITH JCFS SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS) MAY BE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE TO THREATEN PROGRESS IN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS, BUT MOMENTUM IS ACTIVE IN BOTH SETS OF TALKS. CHALLENGE TO SUCCESSFUL OUTCOMES DEPENDS OF COURSE ON MANY FACTORS; ONE WHICH LOOMS LARGEST UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES IS UNITY VS. SEPARATISM. WITH MARIANAS NEGOTIATIONS HAVING MOVED A CONSIDERABLE WAY DOWN THE ROAD THIS IS NO LONGER AN ACADEMIC QUESTION, AND COM SEES IT AS A REAL AND PRESENT CHALLENGE TO ITS AUTHORITY. TRENT
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