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FROM: CINCPACREPGUAM/TTPI MARIANAS ISLANDS

TO: SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

INFO: CINCPAC HONOLULU HI PRIORITY

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PASS OMSN FOR ACTION AND INTERIOR FOR DOTA

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

FROM STATUS LNO 16

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV TQ

SUBJECT: MARIANAS V PART 2: REORGANIZING MPSC AND OTHER PROSPECTIVE
PROBLEMS

1. (C) BEGIN SUMMARY. MARIANAS V NOW SCHEDULED RESUME ABOUT FEB 4,
WITH POPULAR PARTY MEMBERS STILL STRONGLY IN FAVOR SIGNING COVENANT
ASAP. ALTHOUGH TERRITORIAL PARTY APPARENTLY CONTINUES TO FAVOR
COMMONWEALTH, THERE ARE SIGNS OF FOOT DRAGGING AND SOME OUTRIGHT
OPPOSITION TO IMMEDIATE SIGNATURE. MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS
COMMISSION (MPSC) HAS NOT MET FOR SOME TIME AND HAS LACKED CHAIRMAN
SINCE PANGELINAN CEASED TO BE MEMBER COM JAN 3. VICE CHAIRMAN SANTOS
AND POPULAR PARTY PLANNING MPSC MEETING FEB 3 TO REORGANIZE
COMMISSION, AT WHICH THEY HOPE TO REELECT PANGELINAN AS CHAIRMAN,
END SUMMARY.

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ON JUL 10 1985 UNDER PRO-
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2. (C) SINCE NOVEMBER 5 DEFEAT OF PANGELINAN AND HERMAN Q. GUERRERO MPSC'S COMPOSITION HAS BEEN UP FOR CHANGE. ALTHOUGH MPSC MEMBERSHIP FAILED REFLECT INCREASED TERRITORIAL PARTY STRENGTH SHOWN IN ELECTION, BOTH GROUPS MADE EFFORT, IN FACT REMARKABLY SUCCESSFUL, TO WORK TOGETHER BEFORE AND DURING FIRST PART OF MARIANAS V (DEC 4-19) UNDER PANGELINAN'S CHAIRMANSHIP. HOWEVER, ON JAN 3, WHEN NEW CONGRESSMEN TOOK OFFICE, HE AND GUERRERO CEASED TO BE MEMBERS; AS FAR AS WE KNOW MPSC HAS NOT MET SINCE. IN MID-JANUARY NEW SENATOR PETE A. TENORIO NOTIFIED JCFS THAT HE AND RADICAL YOUNG CONGRESSMAN OSCAR RASA, BOTH TERRITORIALS, WOULD CONSTITUTE MARIANAS DELEGATION TO JCFS, AND EX OFFICIO MEMBERS MPSC, DESPITE EFFORTS BY POPULAR PARTY TO GET ONE OF THEIR MEN SELECTED. PERHAPS AT POPULAR PARTY REQUEST, AS OF JAN 24 SENATOR OLYMPIO BORJA RESIGNED FROM MPSC PLEADING TOO MANY OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES (BOTH BEN SANTOS AND HERMAN GUERRERO DENY THIS IS TO BE INTERPRETED AS ANY LOSS OF SUPPORT BY BORJA FOR COMMONWEALTH BUT I AM NOT SO SURE) THEREBY CREATING A VACANCY TO WHICH PANGELINAN WAS APPOINTED THAT SAME DAY (BY SAIPAN'S MAYOR SABLAN, WHO IS ALSO "MAYOR" OF ISLANDS NORTH OF SAIPAN). THIS CONSTITUENCY IS THE CLOSEST THING TO A ROTTEN BOROUGH ON THE MPSC AND AN UNSEEMLY SPRINGBOARD FOR PANGELINAN'S REELECTION AS CHAIRMAN, BUT SANTOS APPEARS CONFIDENT HE HAS, OR WILL HAVE BY FEB 3 AT 1 PM WHEN MPSC SCHEDULED TO MEET, THE VOTES. WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE THAT TERRITORIAL PARTY WOULD STRONGLY OPPOSE PANGELINAN'S REELECTION, BUT WE DO NOT HAVE INDICATIONS THEY WILL SUPPORT IT EITHER. OTHER CHANGES TO BE MADE IN MPSC

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INCLUDE SELECTION BY MARIANAS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE (MDL) OF REPLACEMENT FOR FELIPE SALAS, WHO BOWED OUT LAST NOVEMBER, AND BY DISTAD FRANK ADA OF REPLACEMENT FOR PETE A. TENORIO WHO HAS JUST RESIGNED AS BUSINESS INTERESTS REPRESENTATIVE. MDL MAY ACT MORNING FEB 3, WHEN IT CONVENES, TO APPOINT SALAS SUCCESSOR. FROM ALL THIS PULLING AND HAULING, IT APPEARS THAT TERRITORIAL PARTY WILL EMERGE A LITTLE STRONGER THAN IT WAS ON THE MPSC (TENORIO, RASA, FRANK PALACIOS, AND FELIX RABULIMAN BEING IDENTIFIED WITH THAT PARTY'S VIEWS) BUT NOT NECESSARILY UNITED. PARTY COULD CLAIM THAT THEY ARE STILL UNDERREPRESENTED ON THE MPSC IN VIEW OF THEIR SHOWING IN THE COM ELECTION, WHERE THEY SWEEPED THREE OF FOUR MARIANAS SEATS AT ISSUE AND CAME WITHIN A FEW VOTES OF A CLEAN SWEEP. HOWEVER, MOST MEMBERS OF MPSC ARE SELECTED ON ORGANIZATIONAL NOT PARTY BASIS.

3. (C) SEPTEL REPORTS COM ACTIVITIES IN FIRST TWO WEEKS OF SIXTH CONGRESS. IT SEEMS PERTINENT TO THIS MESSAGE, HOWEVER, TO NOTE THAT MARIANAS MEMBERS HAVE BEEN PARTICIPATING ACTIVELY IN THIS SESSION'S WORK. IT WAS PETE TENORIO WHO NOMINATED SALII (UNOPPOSED) AS VP OF SENATE, AND SEN. BORJA WHO CHARED SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO REVIEW TRUK SENATORIAL ELECTION RESULTS. AS USUAL, BORJA HAS INTRODUCED A LARGE NUMBER OF APPROPRIATION BILLS BENEFITING HIS CONSTITUENTS. JOE MAFNAS, ONE OF THREE NEW MARIANAS CONGRESSMEN, WAS MADE CHAIRMAN OF HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE CONTESTED ELECTION RETURNS. OSCAR RASA HAS ALREADY SHOWN SIGNS, AS EXPECTED, THAT HE WILL NOT BE PARTICULARLY RESPONSIVE

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TO PARTY DISCIPLINE EITHER IN HOUSE OR MPSC. IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT HE HAS ANY REAL CONVICTIONS, BUT IT IS UNLIKELY THAT HE PERSONALLY WANTS CLOSER POLITICAL TIES WITH THE US. HERMAN R. GUERRERO, ONLY POPULAR PARTY MEMBER IN HOUSE, HAS BEEN FAIRLY QUIET TO DATE. FROM POINT OF VIEW OF MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS NEGOTIATIONS, PROBLEM IS THAT NONE OF MARIANAS COM MEMBERS IS CLOSELY IDENTIFIED WITH COMMONWEALTH AS AN IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVE, AND NONE WOULD RELISH BEING SPOKESMAN IN CONGRESS (WHICH IS STRONGLY ANTISEPARATIST) FOR SEPARATE STATUS NOW. IN COURSE OF RESPONSIBLE AND GENERALLY WELL-INFORMED PRESENTATION BEFORE SOME TWENTY MEMBERS OF CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, EVENING JAN 27, SEN. TENORIO SUGGESTED MARIANAS SHOULD GIVE FURTHER CONSIDERATION TO POSSIBILITY OF POSTPONING SEPARATE ADMINISTRATION UNTIL COVENANT APPROVED BY U.S. CONGRESS.

4. (C) WE HAVE REPORTED THOSE ISSUES OF WHICH WE'RE AWARE WHICH ARE SAID TO POSE PROBLEMS FOR RENEWED FIFTH ROUND. ALTHOUGH MOST OF THESE COME FROM TERRITORIAL PARTY SOURCES, THEY HAVE NOT BEEN PUT TO STATUS LNO FORMALLY OR IN WRITING NOR TO MPSC. PROBLEMS INCLUDE CONCERN OVER WHETHER U.S. CONGRESS AND COURTS WILL HONOR NONALIENATION OF LANDS, CONTROL OF IMMIGRATION AFTER TRUSTEESHIP TERMINATED, REPORTED UNHAPPINESS OVER TERMS OF TINIAN/SAIPAN LEASES (PERIOD AND/OR AMOUNT), FEAR THAT U.S. CONGRESS WILL FAIL TO AUTHORIZE FUNDS AT AGREED LEVEL, OR FAIL TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS IF AUTHORIZED (WITH CONSEQUENT FEAR THAT MARIANAS, HAVING ALREADY APPROVED COVENANT, WOULD HAVE NO RECOURSE), AND CONCERN OVER WHAT WOULD HAPPEN DURING POSSIBLY EXTENDED PERIOD DURING WHICH U.S. CONGRESS WOULD BE CONSIDERING

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COVENANT. OF CONCERN ALSO, ESPECIALLY BUT NOT SOLELY TO TERRITORIAL PARTY, IS QUESTION OF WHETHER FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE IN RELATIONSHIP OF MARIANAS TO U.S. WOULD IMPINGE ON FAMILY AND COMMUNAL RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN CAROLINIAN COMMUNITY IN MARIANAS AND THEIR KINSMEN IN OTHER DISTRICTS, ESPECIALLY TRUK OUTER ISLANDS.

5. (U) ALTHOUGH THERE ARE NO REPORTS ABOUT WHAT JCFS IS DOING, OTHER THAN SALII'S STATEMENT TO PRESS (STATUS LNO 10 JAN 20) HINTING NEGOTIATIONS MIGHT BE RESUMED IN MARCH, IT SHOULD BE BORNE IN MIND THAT COM REMAINS UNHAPPY AT PROSPECT OF MARIANAS SEPARATION. RESPONSIBILITIES GIVEN MARIANAS MEMBERS OF COM CAN BE CONSTRUED AS EARNEST THAT THEY ARE WELCOME AND WILL BE GIVEN OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN WORK OF CONGRESS. IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT EARLY DATE (JULY 12) WAS FIXED FOR MICRONESIAN CONCON IN EFFORT TO CONFRONT MARIANAS (AND ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY) WITH ALTERNATIVE TO COMMONWEALTH. NO ONE HAS CANCELED MANDATE OF MARIANAS CONCON DELEGATION, WHICH WE UNDERSTAND IS STILL PLANNING TO PARTICIPATE.

6. (C) AS OF THIS WRITING IT APPEARS THAT POPULAR PARTY LEADERSHIP WILL MAINTAIN ITS STRONG SUPPORT FOR SIGNING COVENANT AT FEB MEETING. TERRITORIAL PARTY POSITION IS MORE NUANCED; IT FAVORS COMMONWEALTH AND IS PROBABLY PREPARED TO ENDORSE SIGNATURE, PROVIDED IT IS SATISFIED WITH ANSWERS (POSSIBLY INCLUDING SOME RENEGOTIATING) TO QUESTIONS WE CAN EXPECT ITS REPRESENTATIVE TO RAISE. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF TERRITORIAL REPS TAKE UMBRAGE AT INTRA-MPSC TACTICS

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EMPLOYED BY POPULAR PARTY THEY COULD MAKE ISSUES OF SUCH ASPECTS AS
TIMING OF PLEBISCITE AND SIT OUT PROCESS OF EDUCATING MARIANAS
ELECTORATE, IN EFFECT DISCOURAGING SUPPORT WITHOUT ACTIVELY
OPPOSING COVENANT'S PROMPT ADOPTION. RESUMED MARIANAS V SHOULD
MAKE TERRITORIAL POSITION CLEAR.

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