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TO ZEN/ALDISTADS TERPACIS

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SECTION 01 OF 25

COMTWELVE PASS INFO FOR AMB WILLIAMS

SECSTATE PASS TO DEPT INT/SEC INTERIOR/DOA USN

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA FOR PAC. ISL. MONTHLY

04-426111

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(WILLIAMS RESPONSE TO COM LEADERS)

SAIPAN, MARCH 8 (MNS)---THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE WAS RECEIVED BY THE STATUS LIAISON OFFICE, MARCH 6, 1976, FROM U.S. AMBASSADOR FRANKLIN HAYDEN WILLIAMS TO HONORABLE TOSINO NAKAYAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, HONORABLE BETHWEL HENRY, SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE, SENATOR LAZARUS SALII, VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, REPRESENTATIVE EKPAP SILK, VICE-SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE.

" I AM WRITING IN RESPONSE TO SOME OF PRESIDENT NAKAYAMA'S QUESTIONS POSED IN HIS REMARKS TO THE SENATE ON JANUARY 29, 1976 AND TO SENATOR SALII'S LETTER OF JANUARY 26, 1976. BOTH HAVE INQUIRED ABOUT THE POSITION OF THE U.S. ON VARIOUS POLITICAL STATUS RELATED MATTERS AND HAVE ASKED IN PARTICULAR ABOUT THE REACTION OF THE UNITED STATES TO THE MICRONESIAN DRAFT CONSTITUTION WHICH WAS SIGNED LAST NOVEMBER.

"WITH RESPECT TO THE MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTION, I WOULD LIKE TO SAY AGAIN HOW MUCH I ADMIRE THE MANNER IN WHICH THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION WAS CONDUCTED AND THE SPIRIT OF ACCOMMODATION AND COMPROMISE WHICH RESULTED IN THE SIGNING OF SUCH A HISTORIC DOCUMENT. YOU MAY RECALL THAT THE U.S. HAS CONSISTENTLY HELD TO THE VIEW THAT AGREEMENT AS TO YOUR FUTURE INTERNAL RELATIONSHIP AND THE NATURE OF YOUR FUTURE GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE TO PRECEDE ANY FINAL SETTLEMENT OF YOUR FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS AND THE TERMINATION OF THE TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT.

"YOU HAVE MADE IMPORTANT PROGRESS IN THIS DIRECTION AND IT WOULD SEEM TO US NOW THAT THE NEXT MAJOR STEP IN YOUR FURTHER PROGRESSION TOWARD DETERMINATION OF YOUR FUTURE INTERNAL RELATIONSHIP WOULD BE THE HOLDING OF THE REFERENDUM ON A MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTION SIMULTANEOUSLY IN PALAU, YAP, TRUK, PONAPE, AND THE MARSHALLS. THE U.S. THROUGH THE TT GOVERNMENT WILL COOPERATE FULLY WITH YOU IN THE HOLDING OF SUCH A REFERENDUM IN ACCORDANCE WITH YOUR PL 5-60.

"THE REFERENDUM ON THE CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA WILL OF COURSE HAVE TO BE PRECEDED BY AN EXTENSIVE POLITICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM WITH A CLEAR EXPLANATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION AS THEY RELATE TO INTERNAL AFFAIRS AS WELL AS HOW THE CONSTITUTION WILL AFFECT MICRONESIA'S FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS AND ITS

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FUTURE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS.

"IN THIS REGARD I HAVE REVIEWED THE CROSS-ANALYSIS OF THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION AND THE DRAFT COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION PREPARED FOR THE JCFS. REGRETFULLY, THE U.S. CANNOT AGREE WITH CONCLUSIONS AS TO THE BASIC COMPATIBILITY OF THE TWO DRAFT DOCUMENTS. THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION PER SE IS NOT THE ISSUE. ITS COMPATIBILITY WITH THE PREVIOUSLY AGREED CONCEPTS OF FREE ASSOCIATION AS SET FORTH IN THE PROVISIONS OF THE DRAFT COMPACT AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR ANY ALTERNATIVE STATUS ARRANGEMENTS CONSTITUTE THE CENTRAL QUESTION. IN THIS REGARD THE U.S. HAS CONCLUDED THAT FREE ASSOCIATION AS ENVISAGED BY THE COMPACT IS CLEARLY INCONSISTENT WITH THE SOVEREIGN INDEPENDENT STATUS CALLED FOR BY THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION. WE HAVE FURTHER CONCLUDED THAT MERE REVISION OF THE COMPACT WILL NOT ALTER THIS BASIC FACT.

"I WOULD SUGGEST THAT AN INFORMAL MEETING TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON THIS AND RELATED MATTERS MIGHT SERVE TO EXPLAIN THE REASONS THE U.S. HAS COME TO THE ABOVE CONCLUSIONS AND TO PROVIDE YOU WITH OUR DETAILED COMMENTS ON YOUR CROSS-ANALYSIS. AT THE SAME TIME THE U.S. WOULD BE PLEASED TO LISTEN TO YOUR VIEWS AS TO THE NATURE OF THE NEW FUTURE RELATIONSHIP WHICH YOU WOULD NOW PROPOSE TO ESTABLISH WITH THE U.S. WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF YOUR DRAFT CONSTITUTION. WE WOULD SEE THIS KIND OF INFORMAL EXPLORATION AND EXCHANGE AS BEING MOST USEFUL AS BACKGROUND FOR THE RESUMPTION OF FORMAL TALKS WITH THE NEW MICRONESIAN COMMISSION OF FUTURE STATUS AND TRANSITION AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME IN THE FUTURE.

"YOU HAVE ASKED WHAT IS THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY POSITION ON UNITY. THE POSITION OF THE U.S. HAS NOT CHANGED. IT CONTINUES TO HOPE THAT OUT OF THE PROCESS OF WRITING AND RATIFYING A CONSTITUTION FOR MICRONESIA WILL COME UNITY. THE PEOPLE OF THE TTPI ENDORSED THIS OBJECTIVE IN PRINCIPLE BY ELECTING DELEGATES TO THE MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION AND NOTHING SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO INTERFERE WITH THE RIGHT OF ALL OF THE PEOPLE TO EVENTUALLY APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE A FEDERAL CONSTITUTION IN A REFERENDUM TO BE HELD SIMULTANEOUSLY THROUGHOUT THE CAROLINES AND THE MARSHALLS. THIS IS AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE THE POSITION OF THE UNITED STATES.

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"WITH RESPECT TO THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE, I BELIEVE THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA IS WISE IN LOOKING AHEAD TO THE FEW REMAINING YEARS OF THE TRUSTEESHIP. THERE IS MUCH TO BE DONE AND THE TIME WILL GO BY QUICKLY. THE U.S. CONTINUES TO LOOK TO THE YEAR 1981 AS THE TARGET DATE FOR TERMINATION OF THE TRUSTEESHIP AND ITS BUDGET PLANNING HAS TAKEN THIS DATE INTO CONSIDERATION. THE REMAINING YEARS SHOULD ALLOW FOR CAREFUL PLANNING FOR A SMOOTH AND ORDERLY TERMINATION OF THE TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT. IN THIS REGARD I DO COMMEND YOUR FORESIGHT IN PROVIDING FOR A NEW CONGRESSIONAL COMMISSION WHICH WILL HAVE BROAD RESPONSIBILITIES FOR TRANSITION PLANNING AS WELL AS FOR FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS MATTERS.

"A YEAR AGO AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE SIXTH CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, I PROPOSED A MEETING FOR AN INFORMAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON A WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECTS RELATED TO YOUR FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS AND TO THE TERMINATION OF THE TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT. COMPETING PRIORITIES PRECLUDED YOUR BEING ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN SUCH A MEETING LAST YEAR. I HOPE THAT THIS YEAR, IN THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE, THAT AN INFORMAL MEETING TO DISCUSS THE ABOVE MENTIONED MATTERS CAN BE ARRANGED AT A MUTUALLY CONVENIENT TIME. IN THE MEANWHILE, I SEND EACH OF YOU MY warmest best wishes."

(RICE ON DECENTRALIZATION ISSUE)

SAIPAN, MARCH 8 (MNS)---EMMETT RICE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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SECTION 02 OF 05

OF THE OFFICE OF TERRITORIES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR
IN WASHINGTON, SAID THAT THE PROPOSED DECENTRALIZATION PLAN
FOR THE TRUST TERRITORY IS NOTHING NEW IN THE TRUST TERRITORY.

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INTERVIEWED ON THE "DIALOGUE OF MICRONESIA" PROGRAM, RICE SAID THAT DECENTRALIZATION IS A CONCEPT WHICH HAS LONG BEEN DESIRED BY THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA, EXPRESSED THROUGH THE LEADERS, AND IN THE PROPOSED CONSTITUTION FOR THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA.

THE FORMER LAYWER FOR THE TRUST TERRITORY DIVISION OF LANDS AND SURVEYS, PRESENTLY CONDUCTING A STUDY OF DECENTRALIZATION IN MICRONESIA, SAID THAT HE IS PRESENTLY IN THE TT TO CONSULT WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AT ALL LEVELS IN ALL BRANCHES TO DETERMINE THE BEST WAY TO MAKE THE GOVERNMENT AGREE WITH THE DESIRES OF THE PEOPLE.

HE ADDED THAT HIS OFFICE IS PLANNING THE DECENTRALIZATION PROCESS VERY MUCH WITH THE CONSTITUTION IN MIND SO THAT WHEN THE TRUSTEESHIP ENDS, THERE WILL BE NO GREAT HARDSHIP ON THE NEW MICRONESIAN GOVERNMENT IN SETTING UP ITS OWN ORGANIZATION.

RICE SAID THAT THERE WERE SOME KNOWN FACTS WHICH WOULD HAVE TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. THE U.S. HAS ALREADY AGREED TO ASSIST IN THE FUNDING OF A NEW CAPITAL AND SOME DAY IN THE FUTURE, THE CAPITAL WILL HAVE TO BE MOVED FROM SAIPAN, ACCORDING TO THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR.

THE MOVEMENT OF HEADQUARTERS FROM SAIPAN WILL NOT HAPPEN BEFORE 3 YEARS AND PERHAPS NOT BEFORE 5 YEARS, RICE SAID. HE ADDED THAT THE PLANS MUST BE MADE NOW, SO THE PRESENT STUDY IS BEING MADE TO BE SURE THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT IS BUILT AND ESTABLISHED ACCORDING TO THE WISHES OF THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA, RICE EMPHATICALLY POINTED OUT THAT NOTHING WILL BE DECIDED UNTIL AFTER CONSULTATIONS WITH THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, THE ADMINISTRATION, THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PEOPLE, AND THE DISTRICTS.

RICE EMPHASIZED THAT WHAT IS PRESENTLY BEING PLANNED SHOULD BE IN AGREEMENT WITH THE NEW CONSTITUTION. HE ADDED THAT THE CONSTITUTION SEEMED TO BE IN AGREEMENT WITH STATEMENTS FROM LEADERS IN MICRONESIA FOR A GREATER SHARE IN DECISION MAKING IN THE DISTRICTS AND A LIMITED CENTRAL GOVERNMENT.

THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, AS THE ADMINISTERING AGENCY, MADE NO DECISIONS ABOUT POLITICS; THIS IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE MICRONESIAN NEGOTIATORS AND THE OFFICE OF AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS, RICE EXPLAINED.



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DEFINING DECENTRALIZATION, RICE IDENTIFIED TWO KINDS. THE FIRST IS FUNCTIONAL DECENTRALIZATION. THIS SIMPLY MEANS GREATER LOCAL POWER TO MAKE DECISIONS CONCERNING LOCAL AFFAIRS IN EACH DISTRICT.

THE SECOND IS PHYSICAL DECENTRALIZATION. ACCORDING TO RICE, THIS MEANS BREAKING UP SOME HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENTS AND REPLACING THEM IN VARIOUS DISTRICTS. SINCE THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT WOULD BE SMALL ANYWAY, ACCORDING TO THE CONSTITUTION, RICE NOTED THAT THIS MAY ALLOW PLACING SOME HEADQUARTERS EXPERTS IN DISTRICTS WHERE THEY ARE MOST NEEDED WITHOUT STOPPING THEM FROM SERVING THE REST OF MICRONESIA. THERE WOULD BE SEVERAL DEPARTMENTS WHICH WOULD HAVE TO REMAIN WHEREVER HEADQUARTERS WAS LOCATED, HE SAID.

RICE SAID THAT THE WHOLE PROGRAM OF DECENTRALIZATION WOULD NOT HAPPEN "OVERNIGHT" BUT WOULD TAKE FROM 3 TO 5 YEARS AND IN NO CASE WOULD THERE BE ANY MASSIVE LAY-OFFS OR BREAKING UP OF DEPARTMENTS WITHOUT ADEQUATE PLANNING AND CONSULTATIONS.

RICE SAID THAT THE MARIANAS CITIZENS NOW WORKING FOR THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT LOSE THEIR JOBS IMMEDIATELY BECAUSE OF DECENTRALIZATION. HE ADDED THAT THERE WOULD BE AN EMPLOYMENT OFFICE SET UP IN THE PERIOD FOLLOWING THE SEPARATE ADMINISTRATION OF THE MARIANAS, PERHAPS ABOUT 30 DAYS AFTER PRESIDENT FORD SIGNS THE COVENANT IN WASHINGTON.

THE EMPLOYMENT OFFICE WOULD IDENTIFY THE MARIANAS PEOPLE WHO COULD BE PHASED OUT OF THE TT GOVERNMENT AND PLAN TO HELP THEM TO FIND JOBS IN THE MARIANAS AND TO PROVIDE TRAINING IF NECESSARY. HE SAID THAT IT WAS A GOAL TO FIND THEM JOBS EQUAL IF NOT BETTER PAY LEVELS THAN THE ONES THEY WOULD BE LOSING.

RICE ADDED THAT NO ONE WOULD BE LAID OFF RIGHT AWAY AND THAT NO ONE SHOULD ACT ON THE RUMORS THAT ALL MARIANAS PEOPLE SHOULD FIND JOBS RIGHT AWAY IF THEY WORK FOR THE TT GOVERNMENT.

REACTING TO A RECENT STATEMENT MADE IN THE CONGRESS CRITICAL OF THE DECENTRALIZATION PLAN, RICE NOTED THAT SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS HAVE BEEN ADDED TO HIS PLANNING COMMITTEE AND THAT THE UNDP PEOPLE WERE BEING CONSULTED CLOSELY IN THE PLANNING.

RICE SAID THAT HE IS HERE IN MICRONESIA TO STUDY THE

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SETTING UP OF A TIMETABLE OR SCHEDULE OF THE DECENTRALIZATION PLAN. THE TIME TABLE WILL BE WRITTEN AFTER HIS RETURN TO WASHINGTON. THIS PROGRAM, RICE SAID, WILL BE RETURNED TO MICRONESIA FOR ADDED COMMENTS BY THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA AND OTHERS BEFORE FINAL DECISIONS ARE MADE IN WASHINGTON. IT WAS THE HOPE IN WASHINGTON TO HAVE DECENTRALIZATION COMPLETED BY THE END OF THE TRUSTEESHIP, POSSIBLY AROUND 1980-81. RICE ADDED THAT DECENTRALIZATION SHOULD GO ALONG WITH THE DRAFT COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION, THE CONSTITUTION FOR THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA, AND WOULD DEVELOP A GREATER SENSE OF UNITY IN MICRONESIA.

HE EMPHASIZED THAT NO FINAL DECISIONS HAD YET BEEN MADE AND THAT HE WAS HERE IN MICRONESIA TO STUDY AND GET THE ADVICE OF THE PEOPLE AND OFFICIALS BEFORE ANYTHING WAS MADE FINAL.

ON OTHER TOPICS, THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF TERRITORIAL AFFAIRS SAID THAT THE SEPARATE ADMINISTRATION OF THE MARIANAS SHOULD TAKE PLACE SOON AFTER PRESIDENT FORD SIGNS THE COVENANT BILL. NO DATE FOR THE SIGNING WAS GIVEN. HE ESTIMATED THAT THE MARIANAS CONSTITUTION WOULD BE PREPARED AFTER THE SIGNING; AND IF IT IS APPROVED, THE MARIANAS COULD HAVE ITS OWN SELF-GOVERNMENT WITHIN ONE YEAR WITH ELECTED EXECUTIVES. HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT THE U.S. POLICY IS STILL TO TERMINATE THE TRUSTEESHIP WITH ALL OF MICRONESIA AT THE SAME TIME AND THAT MARIANAS WOULD STILL TECHNICALLY BE A PART OF THE TRUST TERRITORY UNTIL THAT TIME.



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SECTION 23 OF 25

QUESTIONED ON THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CIP),
 RICE SAID THAT \$145 MILLION WAS ALL THE U.S. GOVERNMENT COULD
 OFFER FOR DEVELOPMENT OF MICRONESIAN INFRASTRUCTURES BETWEEN

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1975 AND 1980.

HE SAID THAT THE MARIANAS HAS ABOUT ONE SIXTH OF THAT AMOUNT, AND THAT THE OTHER DISTRICTS WILL BE CONSULTED TO DETERMINE THEIR PRIORITIES SO THAT THE MONEY COULD BE SPENT FOR THE MOST IMPORTANT PROJECTS. ONCE THE DISTRICTS HAD MADE THEIR PRIORITIES, WASHINGTON WILL MAKE THE FINAL DECISION ON HOW THE 3145 MILLION WILL BE SHARED.

NOTING THAT A DECISION HAD BEEN MADE RECENTLY TO TURN OVER ALL CIP OPERATIONS TO THE OICC (U.S. NAVY), RICE SAID THAT THIS WAS DONE TO ASSURE THE MOST PRODUCT FOR THE MONEY AVAILABLE, HE ADDED THAT WHERE POSSIBLE, LOCAL CONTRACTORS WILL BE USED, AND LOCAL HIRING WILL TAKE PLACE.

THE 3145 MILLION COULD TURN INTO MORE THAN OVER THE YEARS SINCE THE MONEY WILL BE ADJUSTED EACH YEAR ON THE BASIS OF THE PURCHASING POWER OF THE 1974 DOLLAR AND THE MONEY CAN ALSO BE USED TO APPLY FOR U.S. MATCHING FUNDS WHERE THEY ARE AVAILABLE SUCH AS THE HILL-BURTON ACT FOR BUILDING HEALTH FACILITIES, RICE INDICATED.

THERE WOULD BE NO SUDDEN DISRUPTION AND NO SUDDEN LOSS OF JOBS BECAUSE OF THE DECENTRALIZATION PLAN, HE REPEATED IN CLOSING. RICE WILL BE VISITING THE DISTRICTS TO WORK ON THE DECENTRALIZATION PLAN.

(17 NURSES GRADUATED FROM CCM SCHOOL OF NURSING)

SAIPAN, MAR. 8 (MMS)---SEVENTEEN MICRONESIAN YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THEIR NURSING EDUCATION AND RECEIVED THEIR ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE DEGREES IN NURSING ON MARCH 4 ON SAIPAN.

DIGNITARIES WHO ATTENDED THE GRADUATION CEREMONY INCLUDED DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER AND MRS. PETER T. COLEMAN, WHO GAVE THE COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS; T.T. DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION DAVID RAMARUI AND DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA, DARO WEITAL WHO AWARDED THE ASSOCIATE DEGREES TO THE GRADUATING CLASS.

DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER COLEMAN SAID, "MY REMARKS TODAY WILL EXTEND FAR BEYOND THE SCOPE OF NURSING AND ITS OPPORTUNITIES. DURING MY MANY YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE HERE IN THE TRUST TERRITORY, I HAVE ATTENDED NUMEROUS GRADUATION CEREMONIES, GROUNDBREAKINGS AND RIBBON CUTTINGS CEREMONIES. ON EACH OCCASION I THOUGHT OF MYSELF THAT EACH OF THOSE EVENTS MARKED ANOTHER STEP TOWARDS BUILDING

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