

(WILLIAMS RESPONSE TO COM LEADERS)

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SAIPAN, MARCH 8 (MNS)---THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE WAS RECEIVED BY THE STATUS LIAISON OFFICE, MARCH 6, 1976, FROM U.S. AMBASSADOR FRANKLIN HAYDN WILLIAMS TO HONORABLE TOSIWO NAKAYAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE SEVATE, 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 SALLI'S LETTER OF JANUARY 26, 1976. BOTH HAVE INGUIRED 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 ADMIRED THE MARNER 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 PULITICAL STATUS AND THE TERMINATION OF THE TRUSTEED FOR 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 TOHARD DETERMINATION OF YOUR FUTURE INTERNAL RELATIONSHIP HOULD BE THE HOLDING OF THE REFERENDUM ON A MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTION SIMULTANEGUSLY 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 REFERENCIM IN ACCORDANCE HITH 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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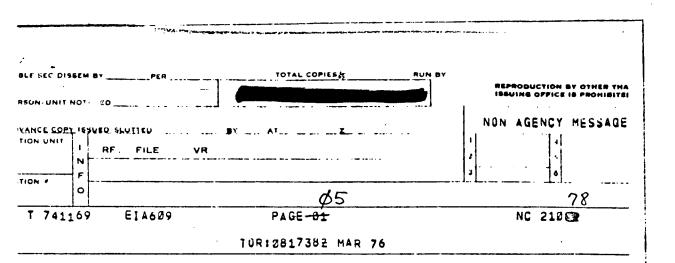
WWITH RESPECT TO THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE, I BELIEVE THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA IS WISE IN LOOKING AHEAD TO THE FEW REMAINING YEARS OF THE TRUSTEESHIP. THERE IS MUCH TO BE DONE AND THE TIME WILL GO BY GUICKLY. THE U.S. CONTINUES TO LOOK TO THE YEAR 1981 AS THE TARGET DATE FOR TERMINATION OF THE TRUSTEESHIP 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 CUNGRESS 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 FRIORITIES PRECLUDED. YOUR BEING ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN SUCH A MEETING LAST YEAR. I HOPE THAT HIS YEAR, IN THE NOT TOD 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 & (MNS) --- EMMETT RICE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR

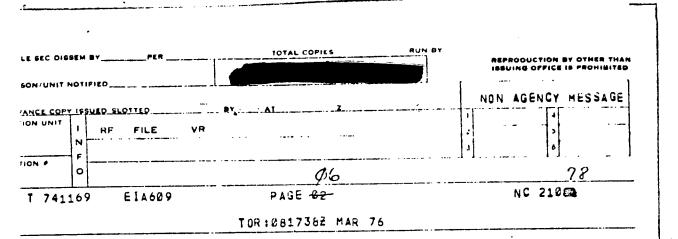
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INTERVIEWED ON THE "DIALOGUE OF MICRONESIA" PROGRAM, RICE SAID THAT DECENTRALIZATION IS A CONCEPT WHICH HAS LONG BEEN DESIRED BY THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA, EXPRESSED THROUGH THE LEADERS, AND IN THE PROPOSED CONSTITUTION FOR THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA,

THE FORMER LAYWER FOR THE TRUST TERRITORY DIVISION OF LANDS AND SURVEYS, PRESENTLY CONDUCTING A STUDY OF DECENTRALIZATION IN MICRONESIA, SAID THAT THE 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 MICRUNESIAN 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 ACCOPDING 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 HILLIAMS, RICE EXPLAINED.

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

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THE SEGOND 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 NOST NEEDED WITHOUT STOPPING THEM FROM SERVING THE REST OF MICRONESIA. THERE WOULD BE SEVERAL DEPARTMENTS WHICH HOULD 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 MELP THEM TO FIND JOBS IN THE MARIANAS AND TO PROVIDE TRAINING IF NECESSARY. HE SAID THAT IT WAS A GOAL TO FIND THEN 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 upper for the TT covernment

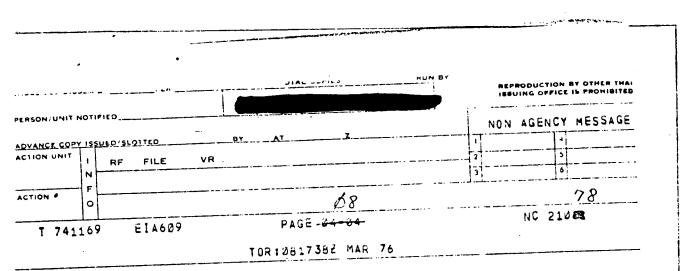
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SHOULD FIND JOBS RIGHT AWAY IF THEY WORK FOR THE TT GOVERNMENT, REACTING TO A RECENT STATEMENT MADE IN THE CONGRESS CRITICAL OF THE DECENTRALIZATION PLAN, RICE NOTED THAT SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS HAVE BEEN ADDED TO HIS PLANNING COMMITTEE AND 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 1980-51. 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 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 BILL. NO DATE FOR THE SIGNING WAS GIVEN, HE ESTIMATED THAT HE MARIANAS CONSTITUTION WOULD BE PREPARED AFTER THE SIGNING; THE MARIANAS CONSTITUTION WOULD BE PREPARED AFTER THE SIGNING; AND IF IT IS APPROVED, THE MARIANAS COULD HAVE ITS OWN SELF-GOVERNMENT WITHIN DNE YEAR WITH ELECTED EXECUTIVES. HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT THE U.S. FOLICY IS STILL TO TERMINATE THE HE SAID THAT THE U.S. FOLICY IS STILL TO TERMINATE THE AND THAT THE U.S. FOLICY IS AT THE SAME TIME AND THAT 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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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 PRIURITIES, 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 DICC (U.S. NAVY), RICE SAID THAT THIS WAS DUNE 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 \$145 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 MEALTH FACILITIES, RICE INDICATED.

THERE WOULD BE NO SUDDEN DISAUPTION AND NO SUDDEN LOSS OF JOBS BECAUSE OF THE DECENTRALIZATION PLAN, HE REPEATED IN CLOSING, RICE WILL BE VISITING THE DISTRICTS TO WOR! ON THE DECENTRALIZATION PLAN. (17 NURSES GRADUATED FROM CON SCHOOL OF MUCDING

(17 NURSES GRADUATED FROM CCM SCHOOL OF NURSING) SAIPAN, MAR/ 8 (MHS)---SEVENTEEN MICRONESIAN YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN/SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THEIR NURSING EDUCATION AND RECEIVED THEIR ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE DESPEES IN NURSING ON MARCH 4 MN SAIPAN.

DIGNITARIES WHO ATTENDED THE GRADUATION SEREMONY INCLUDED DEPUTY HIAH 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, DARD WEITAL WHO AWARDED THE ASSOCIATE DEGREES TO THE GRADUATING CLASS.

DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER CULEMAN SAID, "MY REMARKS TODAY WILL EXTEND FAR BEYOND THE SCOPE OF NUESING 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 EVILDING

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