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TOR:2615042 MAR 76

P 2615002 MAR 76

FM JCS  
INFO RUEAIG/CIA  
RUEFHDA/CSAF WASH DC  
RUEADWD/CSA WASH DC  
P 2617503 MAR 76

*4613855376* \* TTPI.

- FM HICOMTERPACIS SAIPAN MARIANAS ISLANDS
- TO ZEN/ALDISTADS TERPACIS
- ZEN/TT LNO GUAM MARIANAS ISLANDS
- RUMHFGA/TT LNO KWAJALEIN MARSHALL ISLANDS
- RUMHSA/COMNAV MARIANAS GUAM MARIANAS ISLANDS
- RUMNSAA/CINCPACREP GUAM/TTPI GUAM MARIANAS ISLANDS
- RUMHQA/CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
- RUMHQA/INTELLIGENCE CENTER PACIFIC (IPAC)
- RUMJPA/NAVINSERVIC GUAM MARIANAS ISLANDS
- RUMHJJA/COMTWELVE SAN FRANCISCO CA
- RUEHC /SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC
- RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
- RUEKJCS/JCS WASHINGTON DC
- RUENAAA/CNO WASHINGTON DC
- RMMHBRA/CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI
- RUMVAAA/CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI
- RUMHQA/CGFHFPAC CAMP H M SMITH HI
- RHAPSPH/COMSUBPAC PEARL HARBOR HI
- RULSSAA/NAVFACENGCMMO ALEXANDRIA VA
- RUMHAGA/CCGDFOURTEEN HONOLULU HI
- RMMHRD/PACNAVFACENGCMM PEARL HARBOR HI
- RUMJSLC/SAMTEC VANDENBERG AFB CA
- RUMHMAF/FCDNA-LGA KIRTLAND AFB NM
- RMAIBCA/CDRUSAGO MAKIMINATO JAPAN//TTPI-LNO//
- RUEHBA/AMEMB CANBERRA ACT AS
- RUEHKO /AMEMB TOKYO JA
- RUCDGA/CDRBMDS COM HUNTSVILLE AL//BMD SC-RO//
- RUMGJAA/COMCOGARD MARSEC GUAM

*PP-4*  
*DD/POLSI/MARIANAS*  
*Hof. first item (pp-4)*

**INFO ONLY**

UNCLAS.

SECTION 01 OF 03  
COMTWELVE PASS INFO FOR AMB WILLIAMS  
SECSTATE PASS TO DEPT INT/SEC INTERIOR/DOA OSN  
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA FOR PAC. ISL. MONTHLY

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR  
AUG 2 1985

EXT. DATE

REASON FOR MARKINGS

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7-71 MFG. 10/75

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(PRESIDENT SIGNS COVENANT BILL)  
 WASHINGTON, D.C., MARCH 26 (MNS)---PRESIDENT FORD SIGNED THE NORTHERN MARIANAS COVENANT INTO LAW MARCH 24 (WASHINGTON TIME) IN A BRILLIANT CEREMONY HELD IN THE EAST ROOM OF THE WHITE HOUSE.

ON A Dais ERected UNDER THE PORTRAITS OF AMERICA'S FIRST PRESIDENT, GEORGE WASHINGTON, AND THE FIRST LADY, MARTHA WASHINGTON, MEMBERS OF THE MARIANAS DELEGATION AND MEMBERS OF THE U.S. CONGRESS AWAITED THE ARRIVAL OF THE PRESIDENT. AT THREE P.M. (6 A.M. MARCH 25, SAIPAN TIME), THE STRAINS OF "MAIL TO THE CHIEF" FROM A SCARLET-COATED U.S. MILITARY BAND ANNOUNCED THE PRESIDENT, WHO ENTERED ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR FRANKLIN HAYDN WILLIAMS, HIS PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE TO THE MARIANAS AND MICRONESIAN POLITICAL STATUS NEGOTIATIONS. THE PRESIDENT WELCOMED HIS GUESTS TO WITNESS THE SIGNING OF THE JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE CONGRESS APPROVING THE NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH COVENANT, WHICH HE CALLED "AN IMPORTANT MOMENT IN OUR NATION'S HISTORY".

PRESIDENT FORD EXTENDED HIS PERSONAL GREETINGS AND BEST WISHES TO THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS, SAYING: "I WARMLY WELCOME YOUR EVENTUAL ENTRANCE INTO UNION WITH THE UNITED STATES."

FOLLOWING HIS FORMAL REMARKS, THE PRESIDENT EXPRESSED SPECIAL APPRECIATION FOR THE WORK OF AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS TO WHOM THE PEOPLE OF THE U.S. AND OF THE MARIANAS OWED A GREAT DEBT OF GRATITUDE.

THE CEREMONY WAS ATTENDED BY 18 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS PEOPLE: DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER PETER Y. COLEMAN; RANKING REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT INCLUDING OFFICIALS OF THE CABINET; AND MEMBERS OF THE U.S. CONGRESS WHO PLAYED KEY ROLES IN NEGOTIATING THE COVENANT AND OBTAINING ITS APPROVAL BY THE CONGRESS. THESE LATTER INCLUDED SENATOR J. BENNETT JOHNSTON AND REPRESENTATIVE PHILLIP BURTON OF THE RESPECTIVE COMMITTEES ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS.

DURING THE SIGNING CEREMONY, MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION CHAIRMAN EDWARD DLG. PANGELINAN PRESENTED A CARVED WOODEN BULLOCK CART WITH FACSIMILE LATTE STONES TO PRESIDENT FORD ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS. OTHER MEMBERS OF THE MARIANAS DELEGATION PRESENT AT THE

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7-71 MSG. 10/71

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TOR12615042 MAR 76

CEREMONY WERE MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE PRESIDENT VICENTE N. SANTOS, SENATOR PEDRO A. TENDRIO, SENATOR OLYMPIO T. ECRJA, MARIANAS DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR FRANCISCO C. ADA, MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION MEMBERS MANUEL A. SABLAN AND JOAQUIN I. PANGELINAN, DISTRICT LEGISLATURE MEMBERS SANTIAGO B. MAGOFNA, DANIEL T. MUNA, JUAN LG. CABRERA, MANUEL C. MUNA, FRANCISCO M. DIAZ, RICARDO R. DUENAS, LORENZO I. GUERRERO, TINIAN MAYOR FELIPE MENDIOLA, ROTA MAYOR ANTONIO C. ATALIG, SAIPAN MAYOR VICENTE D. SABLAN; AND ROTA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL SPEAKER MISAEL OGO.

FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF REMARKS BY PRESIDENT FORD DURING THE SIGNING CEREMONY:

"THE SIGNING TODAY OF THE JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE CONGRESS APPROVING THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS COMMONWEALTH COVENANT MARKS AN IMPORTANT MOMENT IN OUR NATION'S HISTORY. IT REAFFIRMS OUR COMMITMENT TO THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION, AND IT HONORS THE FREELY EXPRESSED WISHES OF THE PEOPLE OF THESE ISLANDS FOR POLITICAL UNION WITH THE UNITED STATES. THOSE WISHES HAVE BEEN RECORDED FORMALLY THROUGH RESOLUTIONS, REFERENDUM AND PETITIONS TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND TO THE UNITED STATES, DATING AS FAR BACK AS 1950.

"WE CAN BE PROUD OF THE FACT THAT OPEN, DEMOCRATIC NEGOTIATIONS LED TO THE COVENANT.

"THE PLEBISCITE, CONDUCTED IN THE ISLANDS LAST JUNE, RESULTED IN A RESOUNDING 78.8 PERCENT POPULAR APPROVAL OF THE COVENANT, THE FINAL VOTE IN THE HOUSE AND SENATE REFLECTED EQUALLY IMPRESSIVE MAJORITIES.

"I CONGRATULATE ALL THOSE INVOLVED IN THIS PROCESS: THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION, AMBASSADOR HAYDN WILLIAMS, MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN DELEGATION AND THOSE MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS WHO WORKED CLOSELY WITH AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS.

"LET ME ALSO THANK THE DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS, PAST AND PRESENT, OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEES, PARTICULARLY, SENATORS BENNETT JOHNSTON, PAUL FARNIN AND CLIFFORD HANSEN, CHAIRMAN JAMES MALEY, CONGRESSMAN PHIL BURTON, JOE SKUSITZ AND BILL KETCHUM.

"TO THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS, I EXTEND MY PERSONAL GREETINGS AND MY BEST WISHES AS YOU MOVE CLOSER TO YOUR GOAL OF SELF-GOVERNMENT WITHIN THE POLITICAL FRAMEWORK

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3-71 WFO. 10/78

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OF THE AMERICAN FAMILY. I WARMLY WELCOME YOUR EVENTUAL ENTRANCE INTO UNION WITH THE UNITED STATES.

"AS I SIGN THIS BILL, WE MIGHT RECALL THAT THESE ISLANDS WERE ONCE THE SCENE OF BITTER ARMED CONFLICT. MY HOPE NOW IS THAT THEY WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE CONTINUING MAINTENANCE OF PEACE, STABILITY, AND FRIENDSHIP AMONG ALL OF THE PEOPLE AND NATIONS OF THE WESTERN PACIFIC."

PRIOR TO THE SIGNING CEREMONY, PRESIDENT FORD MET FOR 15 MINUTES WITH AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS. THE PRESIDENT DURING WORLD AMBASSADOR OF HIS OWN EXPERIENCES IN THE PACIFIC DURING WORLD WAR II AND RECALLED HIS TIME OFF THE MARIANAS WHILE ON A SHIP IN THE NAVY.

THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT IT WAS A GREAT DAY FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS AND OF THE UNITED STATES. AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS NOTED THAT AS THEY WERE SPEAKING, IT WAS DAWN IN THE MARIANAS AND THE DAY HAD BEEN DECLARED A HOLIDAY.

~~THESE ACTS ON SEVERAL BILLS~~

SAIPAN, MARCH 26 (MNS)---HIGH COMMISSIONER EDWARD E. JOHNSTON THIS WEEK APPROVED A BILL WHICH WOULD ESTABLISH A KUSAIE DISTRICT LEGISLATURE AND TO GRANT THAT LEGISLATURE A CHARTER.

ACCORDING TO THE BILL, THE LEGISLATIVE POWERS OF THE KUSAIE DISTRICT GRANTED UNDER THE LAWS OF THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS SHALL BE VESTED IN A UNICAMERAL ASSEMBLY TO BE KNOWN AS THE KUSAIE DISTRICT LEGISLATURE. THE LEGISLATURE SHALL CONSIST OF FOURTEEN MEMBERS, WHO SHALL BE KNOWN AS

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