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FM CINCPAC REP GUAM
TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC
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C O N F I D E N T I A L // N00000//
FROM: STATUS LNO 313 BENNETT SENDS
E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINR, TO

3614202-2

SUBJECT: ALLEGATIONS OF ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE IN TT (U)
REF: (A) STATE 302572; (B) STATUS LNO 310
PASS INTERIOR FOR OMSN/DOYA

1. (C) THERE HAS BEEN LIMITED FURTHER REACTION TO WASHINGTON POST ALLEGATIONS OF ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE CONDUCTED BY CIA IN MICRONESIA (REFTELS). STORY HAD FADED TO INSIDE PAGES OF PACIFIC DAILY NEWS, WHICH 15 DECEMBER CARRIED EDITORIAL SOMEWHAT SIMILAR IN TONE TO NAKAYAMA-HENRY STATEMENT THOUGH MORE PESSIMISTIC. PDN EDITOR JOE MURPHY EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT IN U.S. MORALITY, SKEPTICISM AS TO HAYDN WILLIAMS' DENIAL OF KNOWLEDGE OF CIA ACTIVITY, AND CONCLUDED, "HOW COULD THE MICRONESIANS EVER TRUST THE U.S. NEGOTIATORS AGAIN? WE WONDER IF THERE IS EVEN ANY POINT IN HOLDING FUTURE TALKS. .. WE SEE A SITUATION IN WHICH THE U.S. CONGRESS WILL REJECT ANY MICRONESIAN ATTEMPT FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT, AND MAY IN FACT ANNEX THE ISLANDS."

2. (C) IT IS UNIVERSALLY ASSUMED THAT ALL ALLEGATIONS IN POST STORY ARE TRUE, AND USG POSITION OF DECLINING COMMENT IS TAKEN TO CONFIRM ALLEGED SURVEILLANCE ACTIVITIES. MOST REACTION HAS BEEN ALONG MORE-IN-SORROW-THAN-IN-ANGER LINES, MIXED WITH SURPRISE AT THE FULLY INVOLVED IN RESORTING TO CLANDESTINE COLLECTION METHODS. A SOMEWHAT HARSHER REACTION, WHICH REPORTEDLY ORIGINATES WITH ATAJI BALOS, IS STATEMENT EXPECTED DECEMBER 17 BY CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA STAFF DEMANDING INVESTIGATION OF NAMED INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE SUSPECTED OF CIA AFFILIATIONS. INCIDENT WILL SERVE AS A BASIS FOR CONTINUED SNIPING AT USG DURING NEXT COM SESSION, AND POSSIBLY FOR HARASSMENT IN THE FORM OF "INVESTIGATION" OF ALLEGATIONS.

3. (C) SIMILARLY, ONCE CFPST HAS OPPORTUNITY TO EXCHANGE VIEWS, WE CAN EXPECT DEMANDS FOR A VARIETY OF APOLOGIES, ASSURANCES THAT ALLEGED SURVEILLANCE WILL NOT BE REPEATED, ETC. IT WILL IN FACT BE NECESSARY TO MAKE SOME STATEMENT TO MICRONESIAN NEGOTIATORS AND LEADERSHIP BEYOND "NO COMMENT", AND I HOPE THE REPLY TO NAKAYAMA-HENRY STATEMENT WILL BE ADEQUATE FOR THIS PURPOSE.

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4. (C) SPECIAL PROBLEMS MAY STEM FROM UNHELPFUL COMMENTS ATTRIBUTED IN POST STORY TO HAYDN WILLIAMS, WHICH FORTUNATELY DID NOT SURFACE HERE UNTIL 16 DECEMBER. WILLIAMS' ALLEGED STATEMENT THAT "STATE DEPT AND ITS PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE ON THE ISLANDS PROVIDED HIM WITH REGULAR INTELLIGENCE REPORTS ON THE MICRONESIAN NEGOTIATING POSITION" HOWEVER INTENDED, WILL BE READ HERE AS SUGGESTION THAT STATUS LNO HAS BEEN ENGAGED IN COVERT COLLECTION ACTIVITIES. IF PRESSED ON THIS SUBJECT, I INTEND TO REPLY THAT STATUS LNO HAS ALWAYS ENGAGED IN OVERT POLITICAL REPORTING BUT NOT IN COVERT ACTIVITIES, THAT WILLIAMS STATEMENT NOT INTENDED TO SUGGEST OTHERWISE, AND THAT IF IT DOES IT IS FALSE. BENNETT.

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