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E.O. 11662: MA. TAGS: PFOR.

SUBJECT: STATE OF TERRITORY MESSAGE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/LTR

REVIEWED BY

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RDS or XDS EXT. DATE TS AUTH. REASON(S) ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS DECLASSIFIED RELEASABLE RELEASE DENIED PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

FOR ACTING HICOM AND STATUS LND BENNETT

FOLLOWING IS FOR INCLUSION IN ACTING HICOM'S STATE OF THE TERRITORY MESSAGE:

CONSUMMATION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS, BEGUN IN DECEMBER 1972. OCCURRED IN 1976 WITH THE ADMINISTRATIVE SEPARATION OF THE MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT FOLLOWING THE PRESIDENT'S SIGNING ON MARCH 24 OF THE COVENANT TO ESTABLISH A COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS IN POLITICAL UNION WITH THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. ROUND VIII IN THE POLITICAL STATUS NEGOTIATIONS INVOLVING THE OTHER DISTRICTS OF THE TRUST TERRITORY WAS HELD ON SAIPAN MAY 28 TO JUNE 2, RESUL TING IN A NEARLY-COMPLETE COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION WITH THE SECTION ON MARINE RESOURCES REMAINING AS THE PRINCIPAL SUBSTANTIVE MATTER FOR NEGOTIATIONS. IN THIS CONNECTION I UNCLASSIFIED UNCLASSIFIED

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WOULD RECALL THAT THE U.S. HAS STATED ITS READINESS TO

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NEGOTIATE THIS POINT ON THE BASIS THAT THE BENEFITS DERIVED FROM EXPLOITATION OF THE LIVING AND NON-LIVING RESOURCES OFF THE COASTS OF MICRONESIA SHOULD ACCRUE TO THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HOPES THAT A

MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION FOLLOWING TERMINATION OF THE TRUSTEESHIP, INCLUDING ALL THE DISTRICTS OF MICRONESIA, AND PROVIDING PROTECTION FOR THE BASIC INTERESTS OF EACH DISTRICT, WILL PROVE TO BE ACCEPTABLE TO THEM.

KISSINGER

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