

PEACE CORPS / MICRONESIA

TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

Headquarters
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Saipan, Mariana Islands
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

March 10, 1971

MEMORANDUM

TO: Charles

FROM: Larry

SUBJECT: The Saipan Tea Party

The salary and wage tax bill has been signed by the High Commissioner and is to take effect on July 1, 1971.

The Marianas Congressional Delegation met with the Hicom prior to his departure for the Budget Hearings to re-emphasize their non-support of the bill in its present form. The Hicom apparently pledged to make a recommendation to the Congress to consider amendments to the bill per the Marianas suggestions at the next session. Whether or not the Congressional Delegation will accept the Hicom's pledge and move the militant factions on Saipan to curtail the factions rumored threatened acts of violence remains to be seen.

[REDACTED] offered the following:

- a. Possible demonstrations.
- b. 5,000 armed people to block airport upon the Hicom's return.
- c. Possible acts of violence and vandalism.
- d. Security and surveillance has been doubled.

The situation was discussed in some detail by the Country Staff. The conclusion was that life and limb of Volunteers and staff is not in jeopardy at this time and would probably be immune to harm in the event of violent outbreaks or demonstrations if the following cautions are observed:

- a. Recognize that the tax bill is a highly controversial political issue and as such the Peace Corps is to remain neutral.
- b. Do not become involved in any public debate on the tax issue.

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BY PUBLIC LAW 92-514

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- c. Do not participate in any demonstrations, even on an innocent bystander basis.
- d. Curtail activities so as not to place oneself in situations social or otherwise where violence could occur.

([REDACTED]) will be communicating with the Saipan Volunteers informally on the above.

INFORMATION DELETED UNDER 5 U.S.C. 552 (b) (5),
THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT, AS AMENDED IN 1974
BY PUBLIC LAW 93-502.