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MESSAGE CENTER

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8792  
INFO RUHNSAA/CINCPAC REP GUAM PRIORITY UNN  
BT

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0125

DEPT PASS INTERIOR DOTA AND OMSN

CINCREP FOR STATUS LNO

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, TG, UN  
SUBJ: UN OBSERVED PLEBISCITE IN MARINAS

REF: STATE 7037

1. LANGUAGE OF PLEBISCITE: AS DEPT IS AWARE, TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL (TC) AT ITS LAST SESSION RECOMMENDED THAT PEOPLE OF MARINAS "HAVE POSSIBILITY OF CONSIDERING WHETHER THEY WISH TO PARTICIPATE WITH REST OF MICRONESIA IN FREE ASSOCIATION." THIS RECOMMENDATION HELPFUL TO US BECAUSE IT CLEAR INDICATION THAT TC NOT NECESSARILY OPPOSED TO SEPARATE STATUS FOR MARINAS. FROM STANDPOINT OF WINNING TC ENDORSEMENT OF PLEBISCITE AS MARINAS' "ACT OF SELF-DETERMINATION", THEREFORE, IT

PAGE 1 C O N F I D E N T I A L

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/HR

REVIEWED BY SPILDMAN DATE 1/8/96

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

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87331

DEFINITELY PREFERABLE FOR BALLOT TO PROVIDE VOTERS WITH CLEAR ALTERNATIVE BETWEEN A) COMMONWEALTH AND B) REMAINING WITH REST OF MICRONESIA.

2. A SIMPLE YES/NO FORMULATION ON THE BALLOT, AS DESIRED BY MARINAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION, WOULD MAKE TC ACCEPTANCE MORE QUESTIONABLE. IF, HOWEVER, THIS OPTION IS CHOSEN, IT WOULD BE MOST IMPORTANT THAT UN VISITING MISSION BE ABLE TO OBSERVE OBJECTIVE AND EXTENSIVE POLITICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM WHICH A) OUTLINES ALL ALTERNATIVES CLEARLY; B) GIVES BOTH SUPPORTERS AND OPPONENTS OF COMMONWEALTH COMPACT EQUAL ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT RADIOS AND TO GOVERNMENT-OWNED TRANSPORTATION TO ISLANDS OTHER THAN SAIPAN; C) EXPLAINS CLEARLY THAT IF COMPACT APPROVED, MARIANAS WOULD BE GIVEN SEPARATE ADMINISTRATIVE STATUS, WHILE IF COMPACT IS REJECTED, THEY WOULD REMAIN ADMINISTRATIVELY WITH OTHER DISTRICTS IN NEGOTIATIONS FOR FREE ASSOCIATION. THE LATTER SHOULD BE STATED BY TT OFFICIALS BEFORE VOTE. OBVIOUSLY SIZE OF Tournout AND PRECENTAGE OF VOTE FAVORING COMPACT WOULD ALSO HAVE MAJOR IMPACT ON VIEWS OF VISITING MISSION.

3. TIMING OF PLEBISCITE: WHILE TC NOW SCHEDULED TO BEGIN NEXT SESSION MAY 27, LENGTH OF SESSION STILL IN DOUBT. (IF PAA NEW GUINEA GAINS INDEPENDENCE BY MAY, SESSION WILL DELA ONLY WITH TTPI AND CULD BE CONCLUDED IN TWO WEEKS.) IN ANY CASE, VISITING MISSION UNLIKELY TO REACH TTPI BEFORE EARLY JULY BECAUSE OF CUSTOMRY MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON AND HONOLULU EN ROUTE. FROM UN STANDPOINT THE LATER THE DATE THE BETTER.

4. TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL APPROVAL OF VISITING MISSION: AS SOON AS MARINAS COMPACT SIGNED, WE WOULD CONSULT WITH THE UK, FRANCE AND AUSTRALIA ON FORTHCOMING PLEBISCITE AND SEEK THEIR COOPERATION IN HAVING THE NEXT PERIODIC VISITING MISSION OBSERVE PELBISCITE AS ONE OF ITS FUNCTIONS. EXACT TERMS OF REFERENCE OF VISITING MISSION MUST BE APPROVED BY TC IN FORM OF RESOLUTION. THEREFORE, BEFORE TC MEETS IN LATE MAY, WE WOULD NEGOTIATE INFOMALLY WITH IT WESTERN MEMBERS NECESSAY LANGUAGE AUTHORIZING MISSION OBSERVATION OF "ACT OF SELF-DETERMINATION", AS WELL AS COMPOSITION AND TIMING OF MISSION.

5. TC AT ITS LAST SESSION WENT ON RECORD AS CALLING FOR SIMULATNEOUS HOLDING OF SEPARATE PLEBISCITES IN MARINAS AND OTHER DISTRICTS OF MICRONESIA. TC ALSO ON RECORD AS RECOMMENDING THAT COM BE INFORMED IN ADVANCE OF MARINAS

PAGE 2

C O N F I D E N T I A L

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87331

FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS. THEREFORE, IT MOST IMPORTANT THAT COM AT LEAST ACCEPT TACITLY SCHEDULING OF PLEBISCITE IN MARIANAS AND THAT COM REPS ATTENDING NEXT TC SESSION NOT LOBBY STRONGLY AGAINST PLEBISCITE AND UN OBSERVATION OF IT. DETERMINED COM OPPOSITION MIGHT FORCE TC AT NEXT SESSION TO GO ON RECORD URGING THAT PLEBISCITE NOT BE HELD UNTIL CONCLUSION OF NEGOTIATIONS OVER FUTURE STATUS OF REST OF MICRONESIA AND TO BACK UP THIS RECOMMENDATION WITH REFUSAL TO AUTHORIZE OBSERVATION OF PLEBISCITE. IF MICRONESIAN POLITICIANS VOCIFEROUSLY TAKE ISSUE WITH MARIANAS PLEBISCITE BEFORE OR DURING NEXT TC SESSION, WE ARE IN FOR CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTY AT THE UN.

5. FROM UN STANDPOINT, COMMONWEALTH STATUS FOR MARIANAS WILL REPRESENT TWO HISTORIC "FIRSTS". IT WILL BE FIRST TIME THAT TRUST TERRITORY OR PORTION THEREOF HAS OPTED TO JOIN WITH ADMINISTERING POWER AS WELL AS FIRST ADDITION TO U.S. TERRITORY SINCE ESTABLISHMENT OF UN. FURTHERMORE, IN APPROVING COMMONWEALTH, TC IN EFFECT WILL BE APPROVING "FRAGMENTATION" OF PRESERVING UNITY OF DEPENDENT TERRITORIES. FOR ALL OF THESE REASONS, IN ORDER TO SECURE EVENTUAL TC AND SECURITY COUNCIL ENDORSEMENT OF MARIANAS NEW STATUS, IT MUST BE CLAR BEYOND ANY DOUBT THAT PEOPLE OF MARIANAS, WHEN THEY VOTED, CHOSE AMONG ALL OPTIONS IN EXERCISING THEIR RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION.

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PAGE 3

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