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CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY B. H. BANS DATE 4/23/87

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RDS ☐ or XBS ☒ EXT. DATE

TS ACTH04 _____ REASON(S) _____

TS AC144
ENDORSE 01/01/04 143/566/03/08
RELEASABLE

DECLASSIFIED ~~X~~ RELEASABLE ~~X~~

RELEASE DENIED ☐

PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

~~TOR DSTE 151307Z FEB 75/29~~

PTTCZQVH RUHISAA0497 04611355-CCCO--RUHNSAA;
ZNR CCCC ZOV RUHISAA8659 REROUTE OF RUEHDT
-T- CINCPCAC REP GUAM PRIORITY UNN
P 150009Z FEB 75
FM USMISSION USUK NEW YORK
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9165
INFO RUHISAA/CINCPCAC REP GUAM PRIORITY UNN
BT

CONFIDENTIAL USUN 497

E.O. 116521 GDS

TAGSI PFOR TO UN

SUBJECT: UN OBSERVED PLEBISCITE IN MARIANAS

REF: A) STATE 70370 B) USUN 125

DEPT PASS INTERIOR DOTA AND OMSN

CINCPAC FOR STATUS LNO

1. ON ASSUMPTION THAT COMMONWEALTH COMPACT WILL BE SIGNED WITH MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION IN NEXT FEW DAYS, WE BELIEVE THAT DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO CONSIDER WHAT UN VISITING MISSION AND TC WILL LOOK FOR WHEN DECIDING WHETHER TO GIVE STAMP OF APPROVAL TO FORTHCOMING PLEBISCITE.

2. VISITING MISSION WILL ASSUME THAT US, AS ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY, HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR ASSURING THAT PLEBISCITE IS "HONEST" (E.G. NO RIGGING OF BALLOTS) AND "FAIR" (E.G. VOTERS GIVEN REAL CHOICE OF ALTERNATIVES PROVIDED WITH CLEAR EXPLANATION AHEAD OF TIME ON POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF ALTERNATIVES.); IN ORDER TO ALLAY SUSPICIONS AND ASSURE VISITING MISSION THAT PLEBISCITE HONEST AND FAIR, US SHOULD ENABLE VISITING MISSION TO OBSERVE ELECTION CAMPAIGN BEFORE VOTE AS WELL AS POLLING PLACES ON DAY OF VOTE; IN ADDITION, AS NOTED REFTEL B, TY GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE ABLE TO DEMONSTRATE THAT IT HAS GIVEN BOTH SUPPORTERS AND OPPONENTS OF COMMONWEALTH COMPACT EQUAL ACCESS TO TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION FACILITIES IN MARIANAS DURING CAMPAIGN.

3. VISITING MISSION AND TC WILL BE PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE TO CHARGES THAT US ATTEMPTING TO ANNEX TERRITORY. THESE CHARGES CAN BE REBUTTED SO LONG AS CAMPAIGN IN FAVOR OF ~~ANNEXATION~~ IS EXCLUSIVE FUNCTION OF MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION AND ITS SUPPORTERS. WE THEREFORE RECOMMEND THAT NO REPEAT NO US OFFICIAL PARTICIPATE IN ELECTION CAMPAIGN; 4. SINCE CHOICES BEING OFFERED MARIANAS DIFFER SUBSTANTIALLY FROM ALTERNATIVES CONTAINED IN PRESENT EDUCATION FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT PROGRAM, (AS OUTLINED TO LAST SESSION OF TC), NEW ESG PROGRAM DESIGNED EXCLUSIVELY FOR MARIANAS SHOULD BE PREPARED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE; TC RECOGNIZES RESPONSIBILITY OF US AS ADMINISTERING POWER TO CONDUCT ESG PROGRAM; WE BELIEVE THAT VISITING MISSION AND TC WILL CONSIDER ESG PROGRAM LEGITIMATE USG AND TPI PUBLIC INFORMATION EFFORT SO LONG AS IT REMAINS OBJECTIVE IN PRESENTING ALTERNATIVES WITHOUT BIAS; 5. IT IS MOST IMPORTANT TO KEEP TOTALLY SEPARATE ESG PROGRAM.

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