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From USUN (Amb White) 3/14
Handed to Amb

GROUND RULES FOR THE CONDUCT OF THE MARIANAS PLEBISCITE 1/2/1975

Copy given to Ambassador
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GENERAL

The United States as administrator is responsible for seeing that a fair election is held so that the peoples of the Marianas may freely determine their own future. Since the issue is in effect acquisition of territory by the U.S., it becomes especially important for us to be able to demonstrate that the Marianans exercised their right to self-determination freely and without pressure from the administering authority. In particular, the UN Visiting Mission must be convinced of this in order for us to obtain eventual UN endorsement of the Marianas plebiscite as an act of self-determination.

It is therefore inappropriate for the US to campaign on behalf of the Covenant in Micronesia. It is appropriate for US officials to do so in the US, with the Congress and the public. Guidelines should be established, and be made public, making clear the respective roles of the US and the Marianan advocates of the Covenant. We should carefully differentiate between an Education for Self Government program (a US responsibility) and the advocacy campaign (a MPSC responsibility).

Plebiscite

EDUCATION FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT PROGRAM -- TTPI

What the TTPI Government Should and Should Not Do

1. Should devise an ESG program specifically for the voters of the Marianas which explains objectively:
 - A) The meaning of the various provisions of the Covenant,
 - B) The reasons for holding a plebiscite (e.g., U.S. obligation under the UN Charter and the Trusteeship Agreement to permit the people of a Trust Territory to determine their own political future)
 - C) The significance of the choices offered on the ballot.
 - D) The arguments for and against the Covenant.

The ESG program should be carried out through publications, radio, and the Micronesian News Service. ESG participants may appear at meetings to explain the Covenant and the choices offered on the ballot. They should not appear jointly with MPSC supporters or in any other way that could be interpreted as TTPI advocacy of the Covenant.

2. Should provide supporters and opponents of the Covenant with equal access to TTPI Government transportation and communications facilities during the election campaign;
3. Should not campaign in favor of a particular election result;
4. Should not permit U.S. citizen employers of the TTPI Government to engage in any electioneering for or against the Covenant;

5. Should not encourage electioneering activities on the part of Micronesian employees of TTPI;
6. Should not provide goods or services to supporters or opponents of the Covenant unless they cannot be ^{offered} offered elsewhere, and then on a cost reimbursable basis;
7. Should not provide "technical assistance" to supporters or opponents of the Covenant. The campaign should be a Marianan one, done in their own way.

CAMPAIGN ON BEHALF OF THE COVENANT -- MPSC

What the MPSC Should Do

1. Conduct the campaign on behalf of the Covenant in the Marianas;
2. Argue the merits of the Covenant;
3. Rebut attacks on the Covenant through speeches, radio broadcasts, advertisements, etc.