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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV TO

SUBJECT: MARIANAS PLEBISCITE - SECOND WEEKLY REPORT

SUMMARY: ARRIVAL APRIL 18 OF PRESIDENTIALLY-APPOINTED PLEBISCITE

COMMISSIONER EDWIN CANHAM AND APPOINTMENT NEIMAN CRALEY OF

HEADQUARTERS STAFF AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HIGHLIGHTED WEEK'S

EVENTS, WITH PLEBISCITE NOW LESS THAN TWO MONTHS AWAY. MICRONESIAN

WEEKLIES ARE DEVOTING INCREASING SPACE TO ISSUES, LIBERALLY

SPERSED WITH PERSONAL REFERENCES. MPSC ACTIVE WITH VILLAGE

MEETINGS WHILE OPPOSITION'S CRITICISMS BEING CIRCULATED BY WORD

OF MOUTH PLUS SEVERAL PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY REP. RASA.

1. MAJOR EVENT OF THE WEEK WAS APRIL 18 ARRIVAL ON SAIPAN OF

PLEBISCITE COMMISSIONER CANHAM. ON APRIL 21 AND 22, HE MADE

APPROPRIATE COURTESY CALLS AND HAD SEPARATE INTERVIEWS WITH

CORRESPONDENTS FROM PACIFIC DAILY NEWS (GUAM) AND MARIANAS VARIETY

NEWS AND VIEWS (SAIPAN). HE HAS ALSO MADE ARRANGEMENTS TO BE

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INTERVIEWED ON ESG RADIO PROGRAM "DIALOGUE FOR MICRONESIA." ON EVENING OF APRIL 22, CANHAM'S OFFICE RELEASED GUIDELINES FOR USE OF GOVERNMENT RADIO STATION AND ACCESS TO FREE TIME ON LOCAL COMMERCIAL TELEVISION. GUIDELINES PROVIDE THAN ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS WILL BE GRANTED LIMITED AND EQUAL ACCESS TO FREE TIME ON CONDITION THAT THEY REGISTER WITH AND ARE CERTIFIED BY PLEBISCITE COMMISSIONER. OFFICE SPACE AWAY FROM TT HEADQUARTERS AND DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN LOCATED AND WILL BE OCCUPIED APRIL 23. GEORGE CALLISON, TT ESG STAFF, HAS BEEN DETAILED TO MR. CANHAM AND IS WORKING ON QUESTION AND ANSWER BOOKLET CLARIFYING COVENANT AND OTHER DOCUMENTS.

2, MPSC COVENANT NEWSLETTER HAS NOT APPERARED SINCE LAST REPORT BUT IS EXPECTED IN DAY OR TWO. NEWSLETTER DATED APRIL 11, REPORTED LAST WEEK, CONTAINS ERROR IN CHAMORRO VERSION OF COVENANT ANALYSIS. ENGLISH TEXT CORRECTLY STATES THAT "UNDER SECTION 105 THE UNITED STATES WILL BE ABLE TO ENACT LEGISLATION WHICH WILL AFFECT THE NORTHERN MARIANAS." CHAMORRO TEXT STATES THE U.S. "WILL NOT BE ABLE..." THIS ERROR WAS PICKED UP BY ACTING PRESIDENT OF THE CAROLINIAN ASSOCIATION, ABEL OLOPAI, AND ALSO POINTED OUT IN A LETTER TO THE EDITOR CARRIED IN THE APRIL 18 MARIANAS VARIETY AND APRIL 19 FREE PRESS.

3, MPSC CONTINUES TO HOLD LIGHTLY ATTENDED VILLAGE MEETINGS AND MET APRIL 12/20 WITH UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ON GUAM. BOTH MPSC CHAIRMAN PANGELINAN AND HERMAN G. GUERRERO INDICATE MPSC MAY SHIFT TO POLITICAL CAMPAIGN STYLE EFFORT IN ORDER TO GENERATE MORE PUBLIC INTEREST AND PARTICIPATION. GUERRERO, WHO PARTICIPATED IN GUAM MEETINGS WITH STUDENTS INDICATED COMMISSION SURPRISED AT CRITICAL ATTITUDE AMONG STUDENTS. HE STATED THAT RASA HAD ALREADY MET WITH THEM AND MANY QUESTIONS REFLECTED HIS INFLUENCE. HE ALSO REPORTED THAT JESUS MAFNAS, BROTHER OF CONGRESSMAN JOSE MAFNAS AND VICE-PRESIDENT OF TERRITORIAL PARTY, ATTEMPTED TO ORGANIZE STUDENT BOYCOTT OF MEETION WITH MPSC, WHICH HAD BEEN ORGANIZED AT INITIATIVE OF STUDENTS. JESUS MAFNAS IS CHIEF OF REVENUE DIVISION, TT DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, AND STUDYING ACCOUNTING AT UNIVERSITY OF GUAM.

4, STATEMENT BY CONGRESSMAN BURTON THAT HE WILL SEEK AMENDEMENT TO MICRONESIAN CLAIMS LEGISLATION AUTHORIZING FULLY PAYMENT OF CLAIMS WAS REPORTED APRIL 16 IN PDN AND SEIZED UPON BY RASA AS EVIDENCE THAT COVENANT COULD BE RENEGOTIATED WITH U.S. CONGRESS. IN A WELL PUBLICIZED STATEMENT, RASA ASSERTED THAT "THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS MUST REMEMBER THAT THOSE WHO SIGNED THE COMMONWEALTH COVENANT DID SO

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IN THE BELIEF THAT THEY NEGOTIATED THE BEST POSSIBLE ARRANGEMENT WITH AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS. CONGRESSMAN BURTON'S ACTIONS PROVE THIS IS NOT NOT TRUE; BURTON HAS SHOWN US THAT THE U.S. CONGRESS CAN BE MORE RECEPTIVE TO THE NEEDS OF OUR PEOPLE IN THE MARIANAS," RASA CONTINUED, USG POSITION THAT STATUS NEGOTIATIONS AND WAR CLAIMS ARE SEPARATE MATTERS HAS NEVER BEEN FULLY ACCEPTED. HERE AND PEOPLE OF MARIANAS TEND TO LOOK ON RELATIONSHIP WITH U.S. AS TOTAL PACKAGE. THERE HAS BEEN CRITICISM OF FAILURE OF COVENANT TO ADDRESS CLAIMS QUESTION AND RASA UNDOUBTEDLY STRUCK RESPONSIVE CHORD.

5. DEBATE BETWEEN SENATOR TENORIO AND OLOPAI/RASA ON SUBJECT OF RIGHT OF CAROLINIANS TO HOLD LAND UNDER COMMONWEALTH AND PROPRIETY OF CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA GRANT FOR THE RASA/OLOPAI "POLITICAL EDUCATION" EFFORT CONTINUED DURING WEEK UNDER REVIEW, BUT CEASED RECEIVING MNS COVERAGE WHEN MNS DIRECTOR FRANK ROSARIO AND COM STAFF AGREED TO CALL CEASEFIRE ON FURTHER PUBLICITY ON THIS ISSUE ON APRIL 18. ON THAT DATE TENORIO SENT LETTER, UNPUBLICIZED, TO COM LEADERSHIP CONGRATULATING THEM ON THE FINE WORK DONE BY THEIR STAFF, INCLUDING EXPATRIATES, AND WARNING THEM OF "DANGERS OF LETTING NON-MICRONESIANS PUT WORDS INTO YOUR MOUTHS." LETTER WENT ON TO ASSERT THAT \$10,000 COM GRANT FOR MARIANAS POLITICAL EDUCATION INAPPROPRIATE USE OF COMMUNITY FUNDS, SINCE RASA CLAIMS TO SUPPORT COMMONWEALTH. ON SAME DAY TENORIO SEPARATELY REQUESTED COM GRANT OF \$10,000 FOR HIS OWN POLITICAL EDUCATION EFFORT, WHICH WAS PUBLICIZED BY MNS.

6. APRIL 19 ISSUE OF FREE PRESS, WHICH WAS NOT YET AVAILABLE ON THE NEWSSTANDS BY THE EVENING OF APRIL 22, WAS DISTRIBUTED WITHOUT COST TO ALL STAFF OF AT LEAST ONE TT DIVISION ON THE MORNING OF APRIL 22. IT CONTAINED ARTICLES ON AMERICAN UNEMPLOYMENT AND FOUR PAGES OF PHOTOGRAPHS OF AMERICAN POVERTY. SENATOR TENORIO COMES IN FOR MUCH PERSONAL CRITICISM AND FREE PRESS PROMISES FURTHER EXPOSE NEXT ISSUE. THIS APPEARS TO BE RESPONSE TO ARTICLE IN COVENANT NEWSLETTER ACCUSING RASA OF LEAVING TENORIO HOLDING RASA'S WASHINGTON HOTEL BILL. POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENTS INCLUDE FULL PAGE OF "16 REASONS TO VOTE AGAINST THE COVENANT," ADS ASSERTING UNFAIRLY LOW PRICES FOR U.S. LAND USE AND ASSERTION THAT VOTE FOR COVENANT IS VOTE FOR DISCRIMINATION, UNEMPLOYMENT, UNDEREMPLOYMENT, MORE TAXES AND NO MINIMUM WAGE.

7. CURRENT ISSUES OF MARIANAS VARIETY (APRIL 18), FREE PRESS (APRIL 19), AND MICRONESIAN INDEPENDENT CARRY INTERVIEW WITH LARRY CABRERA, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR ADMIN OF MICRONESIAN LEGAL

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SERVICES AND MARIANAS DELEGATE TO MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CON- . .
 VENTION, CABRERA ASSERTS PEOPLE ARE BEING MISLED BY BEING TOLD
 THAT REJECTION OF COVENANT WILL CHANGE OF FUTURE CLOSE ASSOCIATION
 WITH THE UNITED STATES. CABRERA IDENTIFIED OTHER PROBLEMS AS
 FAILURE OF LOCAL PEOPLE TO FULLY UNDERSTAND MEANING OF MEMBERSHIP IN
 "U.S. POLITICAL FAMILY," FEAR THAT LOCAL PEOPLE WILL BE DISPLACED
 BY MORE QUALIFIED MAINLANDERS ONCE JOB PREFERENCES END, AND LIKELY

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REJECTION BY U.S. CONGRESS OF COVENANT'S RESTRICTION ON LAND OWNERSHIP IN MARIANAS. HE ASSERTED THAT PEOPLE OF MARIANAS HAVE NO RIGHT OF FINAL REVIEW IN EVENT U.S. CONGRESS CHANGES PORTIONS OF COVENANT AND CITED EXPERIENCE WITH CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON GUAM'S ORGANIC ACT. LATTER POINT IS SUBJECT OF MUCH DISCUSSION AND SHOULD BE CLARIFIED. REASSURANCE NEEDED THAT U.S. CONGRESS CANNOT UNILATERALLY AMEND THE COVENANT AND IMPOSE AMENDED VERSION ON MARIANAS. 8, UNCLASSIFIED SEPTEL CONTAINS TEXT OF PETE TENORIO LETTER TO PRESIDENT, REP. BURTON, AND AME WILLIAMS CONTAINING A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS PUT TO HIM. WHILE HE KNOWS ANSWERS, AND RECOGNIZES THAT MANY OF QUESTIONS ARE PUT IN SIMPLISTIC FASHION, HE TOLD US HE WOULD LIKE PROMPT AUTHORITATIVE ANSWER WHICH COULD BE PUBLICIZED.

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