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SAIPAN, APR. 30 (MNS)---THE LAW REQUIRING FIVE-YEARS RESIDENCY FOR VOTING IN THE MARIANAS DISTRICT ELECTION WILL NOT APPLY TO THE PLEBISCITE, ACCORDING TO MR. ERWIN D. CANHAM, PLEBISCITE COMMISSIONER.

THE QUALIFICATIONS TO VOTE IN THE PLEBISCITE ARE SPELLED OUT IN THE COVENANT, HE SAID, ADDING THAT THE "MOST IMPORTANT QUALIFICATIONS ARE TO BE A TT CITIZEN AND TO BE DOMICILED IN THE MARIANAS." THE COVENANT SPELLS OUT THE MEANS OF DETERMINING

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INDIVIDUAL CASES, HE SAID.

A NEW VOTER REGISTRATION LIST IS NEEDED, HE SAID AND A REGISTRATION BOARD IS BEING ORGANIZED TO CARRY IT OUT.

ON THE REGISTRATION OF VOTERS, THE COMMISSIONER STATED THAT WHILE THE ONLY REQUIREMENT TO QUALIFY WAS CITIZENSHIP IN THE TT AND DOMICILE IN THE MARIANAS, PROVISIONS WOULD BE SET UP FOR APPEALS OF ANY DECISIONS BY THE REGISTRATION TEAMS. APPEALS OR CHALLENGES WOULD BE FIRST HEARD BY THE WHOLE BOARD AND THEN IF NECESSARY BY A JUDGE APPOINTED BY THE TT HIGH COURT JUSTICE.

CONCERNING POLITICAL EDUCATION, CANHAM SAID HIS OFFICE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR CARRYING OUT AN OBJECTIVE AND NEUTRAL PROGRAM DESIGNED TO PRESENT THE FACTS ABOUT THE PLEBISCITE AND THE COVENANT.

ASKED IF HE WOULD BE PRESENTING ALTERNATE POLITICAL STATUSES, CANHAM REPLIED THAT HE WOULD BE DISCUSSING THE THE IMPLICATIONS OF A "NO" VOTE ON THE BALLUT. HE POINTED OUT THAT A "NO" VOTE WILL NOT RULE ANYTHING OUT FOR THE FUTURE INCLUDING OPTING FOR INDEPENDENCE OR EVEN RENEWED NEGOTIATIONS. IT ONLY MEANS THAT FOR THE TIME BEING, THE MARIANAS WOULD

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COUNTINUE TO BE ONE DISTRICT IN THE TT AND SHARE IN THE FUTURE POLITICAL DETERMINATION OF THAT BODY.

THE FORMER EDITOR OF THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, A MAJOR U.S. NEWSPAPER, STRESSED THROUGHOUT THE INTERVIEW HIS ROLE AS AN OBJECTIVE AND IMPARTIAL OFFICIAL TO SEE THAT A FAIR AND FREE

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ELECTION TAKES PLACE. HE SAID ONE OF THE REASONS HE FELT THAT HE WAS SELECTED WAS HIS INDEPENDENCE FROM ANY INTEREST GROUP IN THE U.S. GOVERNMENT.

CANHAM WAS INTERVIEWED ON THE HEADQUARTERS TASK FORCE ON EDUCATION FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT PROGRAM "DIALOGUE FOR MICRONESIA." (MARIANAS DELEGATION WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN CONCON)

SAIPAN, APRIL 30 (MNS)---THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MARIANAS DELEGATION TO THE MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION LARRY DLG. CABRERA ANNOUNCED THAT THE MARIANAS DELEGATION WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE UPCOMING MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION IF THE MARIANAS VOTERS ENDORSE THE COMMONWEALTH COVENANT IN THE JUNE 17 PLEBISCITE.

CABRERA SAID THE DECISION WAS MADE RECENTLY IN A MEETING OF THE DELEGATION HELD TO DECIDE ITS POSITION. THE MARIANAS CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION DELEGATION IS ACCUTELY

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AWARE OF THE TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF PREPARATORY WORK WHICH HAS TO BE DONE BEFORE THE CONVENTION, HE ADDED.

THE MARIANAS DELEGATION CHAIRMAN POINTED OUT HOWEVER THAT ALL THESE MUST WAIT UNTIL AFTER THE JUNE 17 PLEBISCITE TO SEE IF A NEW MANDATE WILL EMERGE. "IT SEEMED PARAMOUNT AT THIS TIME IN ALL FAIRNESS TO ALL CONCERN THAT TIME AND EFFORTS BE SPENT TO FAMILIARIZE THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS WITH EVERY POSITION OF THE COVENANT AND ITS IMPLICATION BEFORE THE PLEBISCITE, AND THAT ACTIVITIES RELATIVE TO INFORMATION AND EDUCATION ON THE MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION BE INSTITUTED ONLY AFTER THE MARIANAS PEOPLE HAS REJECTED THE COVENANT," CABRERA SAID.

CABRERA ALSO INDICATED THAT THEY WILL ATTEMPT TO MEET REGULARLY WITH THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE MARIANAS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE AND THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION "TO KEEP ABREAST WITH THE DEVELOPMENTS ON POLITICAL EDUCATION AND RELATED ACTIVITIES FOR PLANNING PURPOSES."

ACCORDING TO CABRERA, ALL BUT SENATOR OLYMPIO BORJA WERE PRESENT AT THE MEETING. SENATOR BORJA WAS REPORTED TO HAVE CONCURRED WITH THE POSITION THE DELEGATION HAS TAKEN.

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