

(CANHAM CLARIFIES PLEBISCITE VOTER QUALIFICATIONS) 1975

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 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 IMPLICATIONS OF A "NO" VOTE ON THE BALLOT. HE POINTED OUT THAT A "NO" VOTE WILL NOT RULED ANYTHING OUT FOR THE FUTURE INCLUDING OPTING FOR INDEPENDENCE OR EVEN RENEWED NEGOTIATIONS. IT ONLY MEANS THAT FOR THE TIME BEING, THE MARIANAS WOULD CONTINUE 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 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 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

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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.

THE MARIANAS DELEGATION TO THE MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION CONSISTS OF: LARRY CABRERA, CHAIRMAN; SENATOR OLYMPIO BORJA, VICE-CHAIRMAN; JOAQUIN I. PANGELINAN, LUIS I. LINES, DR. FRANCISCO PALACIOS, ALL FROM SAIPAN; BENJAMIN MANGLONA, ROTA AND JOSE CRUZ FROM TINIAN.

(VOLCANO ERUPTING NEAR TINIAN)

SAIPAN, APR. 30 (MNS)---ONE OF ONLY TWO KNOWN SUBMERGED VOLCANOES IN THE MARIANA ISLANDS IS ERUPTING WEST OF TINIAN, ACCORDING TO WEDNESDAY'S (APRIL 30) EDITION OF THE PACIFIC DAILY NEWS.

UNNAMED AND VIRTUALLY UNSTUDIED, THIS VOLCANO--ESTIMATED AT 20 TO 25 MILES WEST OF TINIAN'S SOUTHERN TIP WAS FIRST SPOTTED SATURDAY, (APR. 26), BY CREW MEMBERS OF CONTINENTAL AIR MICRONESIA WHO REPORTED THAT ITS UNDERWATER EXPLOSIONS WERE CAUSING A BUBBLING ACTION ON THE WATER'S SURFACE. STEAM VAPOR ALSO WAS NOTED. THE ACTIVITY IN THE AREA HAS BEEN IRREGULAR SINCE THEN AND SEVERAL NEW ERUPTIONS WERE SEEN.

ACCORDING TO PDN, THE SURFACE OF THE WATER IS MARKED BY A SERIES OF BOILING SPOTS RUNNING NORTH TO SOUTH, WITH THE SOUTHERNMOST FANNING OUT IN AN OPEN OVAL TOWARD THE SOUTHWEST FOR A DISTANCE ESTIMATED BY PILOTS AT ABOUT TWO MILES. WITHIN THIS FAN, THE COLOR OF THE WATER VARIES FROM LIGHT BROWN TO GREENISH YELLOW.

"I WOULD DESCRIBE THE WATER INSIDE THE FAN AS LOOKING ALMOST POLLUTED," STATED 1ST OFFICER KEITH JAEGER ON MONDAY'S (APRIL 28) AFTERNOON FLIGHT TO TINIAN, SAIPAN AND ROTA. DENNY WELCKLE, 2ND OFFICER, ECHOED JAEGER'S OPINION, SAYING: "I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT BUBBLING SULPHUR LOOKS LIKE, BUT THAT'S HOW I'D CALL IT."

WELCKLE'S REMARK SEEMED SURPRISINGLY ACCURATE LATER WHEN A U.S. NAVAL OCEANOGRAPHIC CHART WAS CONSULTED. THE AREA WAS LEBELED AN "ACTIVE SULPHUR BOIL" AFTER SIGHTINGS IN 1945.

ACCORDING TO DR. LU ELDREDGE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF GUAM'S MARINE LABORATORY, THIS SUBMERGED VOLCANO HAS NOT YET BEEN STUDIED IN GREAT DETAIL AS FAR AS HE CAN DETERMINE. HE BELIEVES THAT THE LAST ERUPTION TOOK PLACE FOUR TO FIVE YEARS AGO.

ONE REASON THIS VOLCANO HAS NOT BEEN STUDIED AS MUCH AS OTHERS OF ITS KIND IS THAT SCIENTISTS SELDOM HAVE BEEN IN THE IMMEDIATE AREA DURING ITS PERIODIC EMISSIONS. ELDREDGE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A SURFACE STUDY THIS WEEK OF THE SITE, BUT THE LACK OF A LARGE, WELL-EQUIPPED RESEARCH UNIT AT THE MARINE LAB PREVENTS IT, ACCORDING TO PDN.

"I'M ESPECIALLY INTERESTED," DR. ELDREDGE SAID, "IN ANY POSSIBLE FISH KILLS IN THE AREA. OTHER STUDIES OF SUCH VOLCANOES HAVE REPORTED LARGE AMOUNTS OF DEAD FISH FLOATING ON THE SURFACE OF THE WATER."