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TELEGRAM

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INFO OCT-01 IO-10 EA-06 L-02 PM-03 PA-01 /028 W 055872

P 040040Z AYANG

FM CINCPACREP GUAM MARIANAS ISLANDS

TO RUEHC /SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC

CUMTWELVE SAN FRANCISCO CA

SECDEF WASHINGTON DC

JCS WASHINGTON DC

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC

INFO USS MISSION TO UN NEW YORK NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L //N00000//
STATUS LNG 99C
PASS TO DEPT INTERIOR FOR OMSN (ACTION) AND DOTA (INFO):
COMTWELVE FOR AMB WILLIAMS
STATE FOR EA, IO/UNP, L/UNA
DEFENSE FUR OSD/ISA
WHITE HOUSE FOR NSC
USUN FOR AMB WHITE
E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDEV TG
MARIANAS PLEBISCITE- THIRD WEEKLY REPORT

PAGE 02 RUHGSGG9837 C O N F I D E N T I A L

A. STATUS LNO 91C

SUMMARY: WITH PUBLIC INTEREST FOCUSED ON THE ARRIVAL APRIL 26 OF

A GROUP OF 56 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES, THERE WERE NO OUTSTANDING DEVEL
OPMENTS IN THE THIRD WEEK OF THE MARIANAS PLEBISCITE CAMPAIGN, AND

SUME DIMINUTION OF THE LEVEL OF PERSONAL RECRIMINATIONS. OSCAR

RASA, MOST PROMINENT AND ARTICULATE OF THE COVENANT'S CRITICS,

DEPARTED FOR WASHINGTON O/A APRIL 25, WITH ONE RUMOR INDICATING NE

ALSO PLANNED TO SEE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE OF 24 IN NEW YORK.

PLEBISCITE COMMISSIONER CANHAM, ASSISTED BY NEIMAN CRALEY,

WAS WELL INTO THE PROCESS OF CHOOSING THE PLEBISCITE ADVISORY

CUMMISSION AND ARRANGING FOR THE REGISTRATION OF VOTERS. END SUMMARY.

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1. (U) AMONG THE PRINCIPAL NEWS STORIES WERE:

A. AN EXCELLENT DIALOGUE FOR MICRONESIA INTERVIEW WITH MR.

CANHAM, AIRED APRIL 29 AND 30;

B. AN MNS DESPATCH SUMMARIZING AMB WILLIAMS APRIL 14 PRESENTA-TION TO HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON TERRITORIAL AND INSULAR AFFAIRS, AIRED APRIL 29 AND 30;

C. A PACIFIC DAILY NEWS (PDN) ARTICLE APRIL 30 REPORTING THAT MARIANAS DELEGATION TO THE MICRONESIAN CONCON, OF WHICH LARY CABRERA IS CHAIRMAN, HAD UNANIMOUSLY DECIDED NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN CONCON

PAGE 03 RUHGSGG9837 C O N F I D E N T I A L

(JULY 12) IF MAJORITY OF MARIANAS VOTERS APPROVED COVENANT JUNE 17; D. PUBLICITY IN SEVERAL PAPERS, INCLUDING MARIANAS VARIETY APRIL 25, ABOUT SENATOR PETE TENORIO'S TELEGRAM TO PRESIDENT FORD, SECINT MURTON, REP. PHILIP BURTON, AND AMB WILLIAMS, ASKING WHETHER CUVENANT IN GENERAL AND NUMEROUS SPECIFIC FEATURES COULD BE RENEGO+ TIATED. MNS REPORTED WILLIAMS! REPLY, WITH BRIEF EXCERPTS, APRIL 30 AND MAY 1.

E. OTHER STORIES IN MARIANAS VARIETY INCLUDED INTERVIEW WITH COMMISSIONER CANHAM, AND A DENIAL BY PETE TENORIO THAT BURTON'S OFFER TO SEEK FULL PAYMENT OF MICRONESIA WAR CLAIMS MEANT COVENANT CUULD BE RENEGOTIATED. (TENORIO HAS WRITTEN TO BURTON SEFKING CLARIFICATION OF LATTER'S STATEMENT ON WAR CLAIMS.) EXCEPT FOR A COUPLE OF LETTERS TO THE EDITOR AND TWO LARGE ADS (ONE FULL PAGE) APRIL 25 ISSUE DID NOT PUBLISH ANTI-COVENANT MATERIAL. 2. (C) OPPONENTS OF COVENANT WERE COMPARATIVELY QUIET AND WITH RASA'S DEPARTURE NO NEW GAMBITS WERE LAUNCHED; THERE WAS LIMITED ADDITIONAL PUBLICITY ABOUT ERROR IN CHAMORRO TRANSLATION OF COVENANT (PARA 2 STATUS LNO 91). FREE PRESS APPARENTLY DID NOT APPEAR WEEK-END OF APRIL 26.

3. (U) MPSC MET WITH COMMISSIONER CANHAM ON APRIL 23 AND AS PRINCIPAL

PAGE 04 RUHGSGG9837 C D N F/I D E N T I A L PROPONENT OF COVENANT MAINTAINED SCHEDULE OF DAILY OR MORE FREQUENT MEETINGS IN VARIOUS VILLAGES. THEY HAVE NOW COMPLETED FIRST ROUND OF TALKS WITH SAIPAN VILLAGERS, PUBLISHED ISSUE NO. 4 OF COVENANT NEWSLETTER, AND PLAN TO FEATURE WILLIAMS!

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RESPONSE TO TENORIO'S APRIL 23 MESSAGE IN ISSUE 5 THIS WEEK. 4. (C) REGISTRATION OF VOTERS FOR PLEBISCITE WILL BE MAJOR UNDER-TAKING, ON WHICH CANHAM NOW EMBARKED. CANHAM AND CRALEY HAD "VERY GUOD" MEETING WITH CAROLINIAN ASSOCIATION APRIL 28, WITH REBAULIMAN AND A SCORE OR SO OF YOUNGER CAROLINIANS PRESENT. 5. (C) I ANTICIPATE THAT NEXT WEEK WILL SEE MAJOR INTEREST IN WILLIAMS' RESPONSE TO TENORIO. QUESTION OF RE-NEGOTIABILITY" OF COVENANT, ALTHOUGH UNDOUBTEDLY RECOGNIZED AS STRAW MAN BY RASA WHEN HE PUT IT UP, HAS ATTRACTED CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION. SHOOTING IT DOWN SHOULD SIMPLIFY CHOICE FOR VOTERS, AS WELL AS PUTTING OPPONENTS (WHOSE POSITION HAS PURPORTEDLY BEEN PRO-COMMONWEALTH, ANTI-COVENANT) ON SPOT. 6. (U) COM LEADERSHIP MEETING IN PONAPE HAS REQUESTED HICOM TO CALL SPECIAL TEN-DAY SESSION BEGINNING JUNE 29 RPT 19, TO CONSIDER (VETOED) SALRY LEGISLATION, ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING AND FOR COM, MEASURES VETOED BY HICOM, "LEGISLATION

PAGE 05 RUHGSGG9837 C O N F I D E N T I A L AFFECTING FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS OF MICRONESIA," FUNDING OF STATUS REFERENDUM, AND FURTHER LEGISLATION RE CONCON.

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