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FM CINCPACREP GUAM MARIANAS ISLANDS

TO RUEHC /SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC

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C O N F I D E N T I A L //N02200//

STATUS LNO 107C

PASS TO DEPT INTERIOR FOR OMSN (ACTION) AND DOTA (INFO)

COMTWELVE FOR AMB WILLIAMS

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGSI PDEV TO

SUBJ: MARIANAS PLEBISCITE - FOURTH WEEKLY REPORT

REF: (A) STATUS LNO 99C

(B) STATUS LNO 102

1. SUMMARY: FIRST ROUND OF VOTER REGISTRATION BEGAN MAY 6 AND RUN UNTIL MAY 9. ISSUES REMAIN AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED WITH CHARGE BY UNITED CAROLINIAN ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP THAT RASA IS BIASED IN THE NEGATIVE IS WRITTEN IN MANNER TO ENCOURAGE A PLEBISCITE VOTE. RASA'S FREE PRESS HAS HIT WHAT ONE MUST HOPE WILL BE THE POINT OF THE CAMPAIGN WITH CHARGES OF PERSONAL MISCONDUCT BY SENATOR TENORIO'S WIFE AND THE MPSC HAS COME OUT WITH "HARD HITTING" PAPER IN CHAMORRO. END SUMMARY.

2. PLEBISCITE ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND VOTER REGISTRATION BOARD HAVE BEEN NAMED AND REGISTRATION BEGAN MAY 6 FOLLOWING WEEKEND RADIO ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EFFECTIVE PERSONAL TELEVISION APPEARANCE EVENING

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY H.W. Hred DATE AUG 6 1985

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OF MAY 5 BY PLEBISCITE COMMISSIONER CANHAM WHO IS EXPERIENCED TV PERFORMER, THE PUBLIC IS BEING INFORMED BY THESE MEANS AS WELL AS BY ROVING SOUND TRUCKS THAT REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR ALL WHO WISH TO VOTE IN THE PLEBISCITE, EVEN IF THEY ARE ALREADY REGISTERED FOR LOCAL OR CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS, THE WORD WAS ALSO CARRIAD IN A PACIFIC DAILY NEWS ARTICLE MAY 6, REGISTRATION ON SAIPAN, TINIAN, AND ROTA WILL END ON MAY 9 BUT MAY BE RESUMED NEXT WEEK, DEPENDING ON NEED. REGISTRATION OF QUALIFIED VOTERS ON GUAM (PRIMARILY) MARIANAS STUDENTS) WILL TAKE PLACE MAY 10 AND 11, MR. CANHAM IS URGING EVERYONE TO REGISTER AND HAS INSTRUCTED REGISTRARS TO ACCEPT AT FACE VALUE SWORN STATEMENTS BY PERSONS CLAIMING TO BE QUALIFIED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE SECRETARIAL ORDER. APPEALS AND DISPUTED REGISTRATIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED AFTER THE FACT BY THE FULL VOTER REGISTRATION BOARD, WHICH CONSISTS OF NINE PERSONS, AMONG THOSE APPOINTED TO THE BOARD ARE COVENANT OPPONENTS ALFONSO RASA AND ABEL OLOPAI.

3. LEADERSHIP OF UNITED CAROLINIAN ASSOCIATION (UCA), FELIX RABAJLIMAN AND ABEL OLOPAI, CONTINUE IN THEIR OPPOSITION TO THE COVENANT AND ON MAY 1 SENT TO THE SECRETARY OF INTERIOR A LETTER DRAFTED BY A MICRONESIAN LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION LAWYER WHICH DESCRIBES THE NEGATIVE FORMULATION ON THE BALLOT AS "BIASED" AND MISLEADING." THE LETTER FURTHER STATES THAT THE NEGATIVE FORMULATION WILL "DISCOURAGE PEOPLE FROM VOTING FOR THE 'NO,' WHICH CANNOT POSSIBLY BE UNDERSTOOD, AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO VOTE FOR THE SIMPLER AND UNDERSTANDABLE 'YES'." (COPIES OF THE LETTER WITH HLSC COVER LETTER MAILED TO OMSN, USUN, AND EA/ANP.) PRESS COVERAGE OF THIS LETTER REPORTED REFTEL (B).

4. APRIL 25 ISSUE OF THE FREE PRESS, WHICH APPEARED ON THE STANDS MAY 1, HAS SUNK TO WHAT WE CAN ONLY HOPE WILL BE THE LOWEST LEVEL OF THE CAMPAIGN BY ATTACKING THE PERSONAL CONDUCT OF SENATOR TENDRIOUS WIFE PRIOR TO HER MARRIAGE. THE HOPE IS A SLENDER ONE, HOWEVER, AS THE PAPER PROMISES THE EARLY RELEASE OF "INFORMATION ALSO CONCERNING CERTAIN ACTIVITIES MANIFESTED BY SOME PUBLIC OFFICIALS IN PONAPE AND HONOLULU,..." AS IN ITS PREVIOUS ISSUE, THE FREE PRESS IS PLAYING UP AMERICAN POVERTY AND APPARENTLY ATTACKING NOT ONLY SPECIFIC PROVISIONS OF THE COVENANT BUT HITTING BASIC PRINCIPLE OF ASSOCIATION WITH THE UNITED STATES. MPSC IS SHIFTING GEARS IN ITS CAMPAIGN AND ON MAY 2 RELEASED A NEWSPAPER IN CHAMORRO WHICH CHAIRMAN PANGELINAN DESCRIBED AS "REALLY HARD HITTING." (A COPY HAS BEEN SENT TO OMSN.) IT HITS HARD ON COM INTERFERENCE IN LOCAL CAMPAIGN AND PLAYS ON FEEL-

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ING OF CHAMORRO SUPERIORITY TO "NATIVES" IN OTHER DISTRICTS. FIFTH ISSUE OF COVENANT NEWSLETTER, DUE MAY 5, HAS NOT YET APPEARED. 5. THE MARIANAS VARIETY CONTINUES TO HANDLE THE NEWS EVENHANDEDLY AND EXTENSIVELY. ITS MAY 2 ISSUE CARRIES THE FULL TEXT OF AMB WILLIAMS APRIL 29 LETTER TO SENATOR TENORIO, THE MNS RELEASE ON AMB WILLIAMS APRIL 24 BRIEFING OF THE HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON TERRITORIAL AND INSULAR AFFAIRS, AND A LONG ARTICLE ABOUT MEETING OF MPSC WITH STUDENTS AT HOPWOOD JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL. IN ADDITION TO NORMAL PAID POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENTS, THIS ISSUE OF VARIETY CONTAINS "16 REASONS YOU MUST VOTE FOR THE COVENANT." THESE ARE A DIRECT PLAY ON RASA'S "16 REASONS" AND EMPHASIZE THAT DISAPPROVAL OF THE COVENANT WILL LEAVE MARIANAS PART OF MICRONESIA AND SUBJECT TO CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA. AD DESCRIBES JUNE 17 "YOUR LAST CHANCE TO JOIN WITH THE UNITED STATES."

6. TO DATE ONLY ONE ORGANIZATION HAS AVAILED ITSELF OF FREE RADIO TIME. A UCA REPRESENTATIVE (ABEL DLOPAI) SPOKE FOR HALF AN HOUR IN CAROLINIAN ON THE MORNING OF MAY 6. GUIDELINES ALLOWING FOR FREE TIME HAVE BEEN ISSUED BUT NO ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN BY THE MPSC OR OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES.

7. WITH DEPARTURE FOR GUAM MAY 2 OF GROUP OF 56 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES UNDER ICEM SPONSORSHIP ONLY VIETNAMESE IN THE TT ARE WIVES OF US CITIZENS RESIDING HERE AS TT EMPLOYEES, AND NO MORE REFUGEES ARE EXPECTED (THOUGH YAP DISTRICT HAS AGREED TO ACCEPT RELATIVES OF VIETNAMESE WIFE WHOSE AMERICAN HUSBAND EMPLOYED THERE IF THOSE RELATIVES GOT OUT OF VN). CONTROVERSY OVER RECEIVING REFUGEES HAS SUBSIDED, WITH MARIANAS LEADERSHIP HAVING EVERY RIGHT TO LOOK SUPERIOR, AT MINIMAL EXPENSE, AS COMPARED WITH COM'S NEUROTIC AND UNCHRISTIAN NEGATIVE REACTION. (IT IS, I FEAR, UNLIKELY THAT MARIANAS WOULD WELCOME NUMBERS OF VIETNAMESE, OR ANY OTHER "FOREIGNERS," AS PERMANENT RESIDENTS WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ORPHANS; THERE WAS A NEAR-RUSH TO ADOPT VIETNAMESE ORPHANS, UP TO 4, 6 OR MORE PER FAMILY, THWARTED ONLY BY UNEQUIVOCAL ANNOUNCEMENTS THAT THERE WERE NO VIETNAMESE ORPHANS BEING BROUGHT TO SAIPAN.) A MAJOR REASON FOR GENERALLY FAVORABLE MARIANAS REACTION TO VN PRESENCE WAS WILLINGNESS DEPHICOM AND DEPDISTAD TO RELEASE AVAILABLE INFORMATION TO MEDIA IN GOOD TIME, EVEN THOUGH SOME INFO WAS INITIALLY INCORRECT, E.G. THAT REFUGEES COMING TO SAIPAN WERE U.S. DEPENDENTS. REFUGEES SHORT STAY PROBABLY SERVED TO ENCOURAGE MARIANAS FEELING OF SUPERIORITY TO OTHER DISTRICTS. BERGSEN SENDS.

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