

1975

File

SAIPAN, MAY 15 (MNS)---SOME 4900 RESIDENTS OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS HAVE REGISTERED TO VOTE IN THE JUNE 17 PLEBISCITE, ACCORDING TO A SPOKESMAN FOR THE OFFICE OF THE PLEBISCITE COMMISSIONER. FRIDAY (MAY 16) IS THE DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION FOR THOSE RESIDENTS OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS WHO WISH TO VOTE.

THOSE LIVING OFF-ISLAND--STUDENTS STUDYING ABROAD AND PERSONS WORKING ON GUAM AND ON THE MAINLAND WHO CONSIDER THE NORTHERN MARIANAS THEIR DOMICILE WILL HAVE UNTIL MAY 31 TO RETURN THEIR VOTER-REGISTRATION FORMS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM STUDENTS AND MARIANAS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ON GUAM HAVE BEEN REGISTERED BY A TEAM FROM SAIPAN. FRIDAY, (MAY 16) VOTING PRECINCTS WILL BE OPEN UNTIL 9 P.M. AND AT THE CIVIC CENTER UNTIL MIDNIGHT.

PERSONS WANTING TO VOTE IN THE PLEBISCITE MUST BE REGISTERED. ANY PREVIOUS REGISTRATION FOR MUNICIPAL, DISTRICT OR CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS WILL NOT COUNT.

THURSDAY MORNING VOTER REGISTRATION TEAMS CHARTERED A PRIVATE FISHING VESSEL TO REGISTER VOTERS IN THE NORTHERN ISLANDS OF PAGAN, ALAMAGAN AND AGRIHAN.

MEANWHILE, CAMPAIGN FOR AND AGAINST THE COVENANT IS ACCELERATING ON SAIPAN. PRO AND ANTI COVENANT SUPPORTERS ARE APPEARING DAILY ON RADIO AND TELEVISION, DISTRIBUTING LITERATURE AND BEGINNING VILLAGE TO VILLAGE CANVASSING.

A DAILY NEWS STORY ON WEDNESDAY (MAY 14) STATED THAT FRIENDS FOR COMMONWEALTH, A GROUP FORMED SEVERAL WEEKS AGO TO CAMPAIGN FOR ACCEPTANCE OF THE COVENANT IN THE JUNE 17 PLEBISCITE, IS SPEARHEADING THE PRO-COVENANT VILLAGE CAMPAIGN.

THE GROUP STARTED MONDAY NIGHT (MAY 12) AT CHALAN KANOA AND SCHEDULED CAMPAIGNS FOR TINIAN AND ROTA LATER.

THE ORGANIZATION IS COMPOSED OF ELECTED LEADERS, PRIVATE CITIZENS AND MEMBERS OF THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION (MPSC).

THE GROUP'S PRESIDENT IS DR. FRANCISCO PALACIOS A MEMBER OF THE MPSC AND ALSO THE PRESIDENT OF THE TERRITORIAL PARTY.

WHILE THE MPSC'S STATED GOAL WAS TO EDUCATE THE PEOPLE ABOUT THE COVENANT, FRIENDS OF COMMONWEALTH ADMITS BEING STRONGLY FOR IT, THE DAILY NEWS STORY POINTED OUT.

"RATHER THAN EDUCATE, WE WILL TRY TO PERSUADE PEOPLE," EXPLAINED EDWARD PANGELINAN, CHAIRMAN OF THE MPSC. HE STRESSED THAT HE WAS "JUST A MEMBER" OF THE FRIENDS GROUP, WHOSE MEMBERSHIP HE ESTIMATED AT MORE THAN 200.

"THIS IS A NEW DEVELOPMENT IN POLITICS. FOR THE FIRST TIME TERRITORIAL AND POPULAR PARTIES ARE WORKING TOGETHER," PANGELINAN SAID.

A NEW FREE PUBLICATION ALSO HAS SURFACED, PRINTED THROUGH VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS FROM A "CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH."

ENTITLED "WAKE UP, MARIANAS," THE FIRST ISSUE FOCUSED ON THE "DANGER" OF THE MARIANAS BEING PERMANENTLY ALIGNED WITH THE OTHER DISTRICTS.

SHOWING PICTURES OF U.S. PRESIDENT FORD AND CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA PRESIDENT TOSIWO NAKAYAMA OF TRUK AND SPEAKER BETHUEL HENRY OF PONAPE, THE PAPER ASKED, "WHO DO YOU WISH TO HAVE AS YOUR PRESIDENT?"

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ANOTHER PICTURE SHOWED CONCRETE BUILDINGS AND CARS ON SAIPAN WITH STICK BANCELIS AND THATCHED ROOFS FROM THE OTHER DISTRICTS AND ASKED, "WHAT KIND OF HOUSING DO YOU WANT?" (ALL USERS: PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA) (CONCON DELEGATES CREDENTIALS APPROVED)

SAIPAN, MAY 15 (CONGRESS RELEASE)---MEMBERS OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE OF THE MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION MET ON SAIPAN LAST WEEK TO REVIEW THE CREDENTIALS OF ALL ELECTED AND APPOINTED CONCON DELEGATES.

THE COMMITTEE WAS REQUIRED BY LAW TO NOTIFY EACH DELEGATE TO THE CONVENTION TO FILE HIS CREDENTIALS AND TO ALLOW FOR WRITTEN OBJECTIONS AGAINST THESE CREDENTIALS TO BE FILED. ACCORDING TO PUBLIC LAW 6-24, "ALL HEARINGS AND ALL DECISIONS OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE MUST BE CONCLUDED ON OR BEFORE MAY 15".

PRIOR TO THE APRIL 23 DEADLINE SET FOR RECEIVING CREDENTIALS, THE COMMITTEE HAD IN ITS POSSESSION CREDENTIALS OF ALL BUT FOUR DELEGATES: THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA APPOINTED DELEGATE FROM THE MARSHALLS, TWO TRADITIONAL LEADER DELEGATE APPOINTEES ALSO FROM THE MARSHALLS, AND THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA APPOINTED DELEGATE FROM TRUK.

THE COMMITTEE DETERMINED THAT THE DELAY INVOLVED IN THE SELECTION OF CHIRO ALBERT TO REPLACE ANDON ANARAICH AS THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA APPOINTED DELEGATE FROM TRUK "DID NOT IMPAIR THE VALIDITY OF HIS CREDENTIALS", ALTHOUGH THE CREDENTIALS WERE RECEIVED AFTER THE APRIL 23 DEADLINE.

IN A REPORT SUBMITTED BY THE COMMITTEE TO PRECONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TOSIMO NAKAYAMA, IT WAS STATED THAT "BECAUSE IT DID NOT RECEIVE OBJECTIONS TO ANY PARTICULAR DELEGATE OR TO THE SEATING OF A DELEGATE AT THE CONVENTION, THE COMMITTEE CONSIDERED THE CREDENTIALS OF EACH DELEGATE TO DETERMINE THEIR SUFFICIENCY WITHOUT THE BENEFIT OF WRITTEN OBJECTIONS AS CONTEMPLATED UNDER PUBLIC LAW 6-24, SECTION 3 (3)."

THE REPORT CONTINUED THAT "UPON REVIEWING THE CREDENTIALS OF EACH PERSON ELECTED OR APPOINTED TO SERVE AS DELEGATE TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION, THE COMMITTEE FOUND NO EVIDENCE WHICH WOULD REQUIRE THE DISAPPROVAL OF SUCH CREDENTIALS."

BECAUSE IT HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF ANY DELEGATE SELECTION BY THE MARSHALLS' TRADITIONAL LEADERS OF THE MARSHALLS' CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION, THE COMMITTEE EXPLAINED THAT IT WAS "UNABLE TO JUDGE THE QUALIFICATIONS OF CREDENTIALS OF SELECTIONS WHICH HAVE AS YET NOT BEEN MADE."

THE REPORT CONCLUDED THAT THE COMMITTEE APPROVED THE CREDENTIALS OF ALL APPOINTED OR ELECTED DELEGATES FOR WHOM THEY HAD RECEIVED CREDENTIALS AND RECOMMENDED THAT THESE DELEGATES BE SEATED AT THE CONVENTION.

MEMBERS OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE INCLUDE: CHAIRMAN SOKKICHI FRITZ, TRUK; HILARY TACHELIOL, YAP; AND FRANCISCO PALACIOS, NARIANAS.

(PONAPE TEACHERS THREATEN TO STRIKE)

SAIPAN, MAY 15 (MMS)---AT LEAST 24 TEACHERS ON PONAPE WILL NOT CONDUCT CLASSES MONDAY IF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER DOES NOT RESPOND POSITIVELY TO A SIGNED PETITION BY FRIDAY.

ACCORDING TO THE PACIFIC DAILY NEWS THURSDAY EDITION.

THE PETITION TO HIGH COMMISSIONER EDWARD F. JOHNSTON CLAIMS THAT POIAPÉ DISTRICT TEACHERS WERE INFORMED EARLY THIS YEAR THAT A RECLASSIFICATION PROGRAM DESIGNED TO BRING THE SALARIES OF THE TRUST TERRITORY (TT) TEACHERS INTO LINE WITH THOSE OF OTHER PRIME-CONTRACT PERSONNEL WOULD BE COMPLETED BY APRIL.

IT ALSO SAID THE TEACHERS WERE TOLD THAT RESULTING SALARY INCREASES WOULD BE RETROACTIVE TO SEPTEMBER 1974, THE DAILY NEWS STORY STATED.

"TO DATE, ALTHOUGH RECLASSIFICATION HAS REPUTEDLY BEEN COMPLETED, NO ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN TO ADVISE TEACHERS OF CHANGES IN STATUS OR TO ADJUST THEIR COMPENSATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THOSE CHANGES," THE PETITION SAYS.

THE PETITION ADDS THAT TEACHERS IN THE MARIANAS HAVE RECEIVED RECLASSIFICATION ADJUSTMENTS. "THE ALLOTMENT OF PAY ADJUSTMENTS TO TEACHERS IN ONLY ONE DISTRICT CANNOT BE CONSIDERED EQUAL TREATMENT UNDER THE LAW OF THE TRUST TERRITORY, IT CONTINUES.

THE TEACHERS WANT TO BE INFORMED ON WHAT DATE THEY MAY EXPECT RETROACTIVE PAY AND ALSO WANT INSURANCE THAT PAY VOUCHERS FOR THE PERIOD ENDING MAY 24 REFLECT ADJUSTMENTS RESULTING FROM THE RECLASSIFICATION, THE STORY POINTED OUT.

TO DATE, VITAL INFORMATION HAS BEEN INTENTIONALLY OR UNINTENTIONALLY WITHHELD FROM TEACHERS," THE PETITION SAYS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE HIGH COMMISSIONER SAID THE HICOM RECEIVED THE PETITION THURSDAY AFTERNOON. HE ADDED THAT THE HICOM AND THE DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL, PODIS PEDRUS WILL STUDY THE MATTER.

#### (MICROLYMPICS II PLANNED)

SAIPAN, MAY 15 (MNS)---ATHLETES WHO FAIL TO MAKE MICRONESIA'S SOUTH PACIFIC GAMES TEAM WILL HAVE SOMETHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO, ACCORDING TO FELIX RABAULIMAN, CHAIRMAN OF THE MICRONESIAN SPORTS COUNCIL.

RABAULIMAN SAID IN A LETTER TO ALL DISTRICT ADMINISTRATORS, CHAIRMEN OF THE DISTRICT SPORTS COUNCIL, LEGISLATURE PRESIDENTS AND MAYORS THAT THE COUNCIL HAS DETERMINED THAT THE SECOND MICRONESIA OLYMPIC GAMES (MICROLYMPICS II) WILL BE HELD IN JULY 1976. NO DATE HAS YET BEEN SET.

THE COUNCIL CHAIRMAN ASKED EACH DISTRICT'S SPORTS ASSOCIATION TO INDICATE THEIR DESIRE TO HOST MICROLYMPICS II AND TO REPORT TO THE COUNCIL THE RESULTS.

RABAULIMAN ASKED THAT EACH DISTRICT WANTING TO HOST THE NEXT OLYMPIC GAMES TO CONSIDER THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ATHLETES AND COACHES TO BE HOSTED (HOUSED, FED, AND LOCALLY TRANSPORTED) INCLUDING HOST DISTRICTS TEAM WHICH WILL BE APPROXIMATELY 500. THE GAMES WILL LAST ABOUT 10 DAYS.

ACCORDING TO THE LETTER THE PRESENT PLAN FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE EXPENSES OF THE GAMES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- THE COUNCIL WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE TRANSPORTATION OF THE DISTRICT TEAMS TO AND FROM THE GAMES;
- EACH DISTRICT WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE TRAINING, UNIFORMS, AND EQUIPMENT OF ITS TEAM;

-THE HOST DISTRICT WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PREPARATION OF FACILITIES, PROVISION OF GAMES OFFICIALS, AND LOCAL TRANSPORTATION OF ATHLETES AND COACHES DURING THE GAMES; AND

-THE HOST DISTRICT WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FEEDING AND LODGING OF ALL VISITING ATHLETES, COACHES AND OFFICIALS, BUT MAY CHARGE EACH VISITING DISTRICT TEAM AND ENTRY FEE FOR EACH OF THE TEAMS MEMBERS TO DEFRAY UP TO ONE HALF (1/2) OF THE HOST DISTRICTS ACTUAL FEEDING EXPENSES FOR EACH MEMBER OF THE DISTRICT TEAM.

ACCORDING TO RABAUHANS LETTER, THE COUNCIL WILL SEND A DETAILED BID QUESTIONNAIRE TO ALL INTERESTED DISTRICTS JUNE 15 WHICH SHOULD BE RETURN BY AUGUST 1, 1975.

THE COUNCIL WILL ANNOUNCE THE SITE ON THE BASIS OF THE SUBMITTED BIDS, RABAUHMAN CONCLUDED.

THE FIRST SUCCESSFUL MICROLYMPIC GAMES WAS HELD ON SAIPAN IN JULY OF 1969.