



Orig issued
5/3/75

MAY 21 1975

5/20/75

5/31/75

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ACTION COPY

*File this in Amb's
Marianas Briefing
Book*

PAGE 01 210216Z

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ACTION INT-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 IO-10 L-02 PM-03 INR-07 CIAE-00 SP-02
H-02 PRS-01 /039 W

115293

P 202200Z MAY 75
FM CINCPACREP GUAM MARIANAS ISLANDS
TO RUEHC /SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC
COMTWELVE SAN FRANCISCO CA
JCS WASHINGTON DC
SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC
INFO RUEHDT /US MISSION TO UN NEW YORK NY

Amb MVTrent
Schmitz Archer
Capt *NA* de Gaffenried
Col Smith

C O N F I D E N T I A L //NO0000//

STATUS LNO 116C
PASS TO DEPT INTERIOR FOR OMSN (ACTION) AND DOTA (INFO)
COMTWELVE FOR AMB WILLIAMS
STATE FOR EA, IO/UNP, L/UNA
DEFENSE FOR OSD/ISA
WHITE HOUSE FOR NSC
USUN FOR AMB WHITE
E.O. 11652: ADS, DECLAS 12/31/75
TAGS: PDEV TO
MARIANAS PLEBISCITE - FIFTH WEEKLY REPORT (U)

DECLASSIFIED/RELEASED
ON JUL 10 1985 UNDER PRO-
VISIONS OF E.O. 12356 BY
YNCS D.K. DOLAN, USN
SPECIAL ASSISTANT, OMSN

PAGE 02 RUHSGG9549 C O N F I D E N T I A L

- A. SECSTAE WASHINGTON DC 192334Z MAY 75.
- B. CINCPACREP GUAM MARIANAS ISLANDS 140925Z MAY 75.
- C. STATUS LNO 107C.

1. (U) IAW REF A, REF B IS RETRANSMITTED BEGINNING WITH PARA 1 QUOTE
SUMMARY: MAJOR ACTIVITY FOR WEEK WAS NEAR COMPLETION OF VOTER REGIS-
TRATION AND USE OF FREE BROADCAST TIME BY SUPPORTERS OF COVENANT. AMB
WILLIAMS' MAY 5 LETTER TO SENATOR TENORIO RECEIVED FULL PRESS
COVERAGE. END SUMMARY.
2. (U) AS OF MORNING OF MAY 13, APPROXIMATELY 4,700 PERSONS HAD

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PAGE 02 210216Z

REGISTERED TO VOTE IN PLEBISCITE. THERE WERE SOME 6,200 REGISTERED FOR ELECTION LAST FALL, BUT IT WAS CHARGED AT THE TIME THAT THE FIGURE INCLUDED SOME 500 "OUTSIDERS". REGISTRATION WILL CONTINUE UNTIL MAY 16 AT MIDNIGHT. THE FIRST TWO ABSENTEE BALLOTS WERE CAST OVER THE WEEKEND. BOAT WILL MAKE TRIP MAY 14 OR 15 TO REGISTER PROSPECTIVE VOTERS IN NORTHERN ISLANDS.

3. (C) WE REPORTED LAST WEEK THAT ONLY THE UNITED CAROLINIAN ASSOCIATION (UCA) HAD MADE USE OF FREE RADIO TIME, ALLOCATED BY PLEBISCITE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE, FOR AIRING VIEWS ON THE COVENANT. AS OF MAY 13,

RADIO AND TV TIME HAS BEEN USED BY ABEL OLOPAI, FELIX RABOULIMAN, DR. BENUSTO KAIPAT, SENATOR TENORIO, CONGRESSMAN HERMAN R. GUERRERO,

PAGE 03 RUHGSGG9549 C O N F I D E N T I A L
MPSC CHAIRMAN PANGELINAN, AND TERRITORIAL PARTY CHIEF DR. FRANCISCO PALACIOS. THE FIRST THREE EXPRESSED THE OPPOSITION OF UCA LEADERSHIP TO COVENANT; THE OTHERS SPOKE IN FAVOR.
4. (U) MPSC HAS COMPLETED ITS SCHEDULED VILLAGE MEETING AND WILL HENCEFORTH BE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST FOR EDUCATIONAL EFFORTS. THEY WILL MEET WITH STUDENTS IN GUAM MAY 17/18. WITH FIFTH ISSUE OF COVENANT NEWSLETTER, DATED MAY 5 BUT RELEASED MAY 12, MPSC HAS MADE AVAILABLE CHAMORRO AND CAROLINIAN TRANSLATIONS OF COVENANT THROUGH ARTICLE IX. LAST ARTICLE WILL PRESUMABLY APPEAR IN NEXT ISSUE. MPSC IS CONSIDERING POSSIBILITY OF CEASING PUBLICATION OF NEWSLETTER FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF THIS TASK, IN ORDER TO FREE TIME TO DEVOTE TO A MORE "HARD HITTING" CAMPAIGN. MAJOR BURDEN OF PRO-COVENANT EFFORT HAS NOW BEEN SHIFTED TO RECENTLY ORGANIZED "FRIENDS OF THE COMMON-WEALTH", WHICH HELD ITS FIRST POLITICAL RALLY EVENING MAY 12, ATTENDED

BY SOME 500 PEOPLE ACCORDING TO PANGELINAN. IT IS THIS ORGANIZATION, HEADED BY DR. PALACIOS AND OPERATING WITH ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF MEMBERS OF MPSC FROM BOTH PARTIES AND DISTRICT LEGISLATURE, WHICH HAS FORMAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE NEW CHAMORRO-LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER REPORTED LAST WEEK AND WHICH HAS BEEN PLACING PAID ADS IN MARIANAS VARIETY. SECOND ISSUE OF CHAMORRO PAPER WAS OFF THE PRESSES MAY 13

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TELEGRAM

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PAGE 03 210216Z

PAGE 04 RUHSGG9549 C O N F I D E N T I A L
AND BEING DISTRIBUTED MAY 14.

5. (U) COVERAGE OF PLEBISCITE-RELATED ACTIVITIES IN PACIFIC DAILY NEWS AND MARIANAS VARIETY CONTINUES TO BE REASONABLY EVENHANDED. PDM CARRIED DURING WEEK THE MNS RELEASE SUMMARIZING AMB WILLIAMS' MAY 5 LETTER ANSWERING IN DETAIL QUESTIONS POSED BY SENATOR TENORIO CONCERNING

THE COVENANT. MARIANAS VARIETY, WHILE CONTINUING ITS EDITORIAL OPPOSITION TO THE COVENANT, PUBLISHED WILLIAMS' ANSWERS IN FULL AND HAD A LENGTHY FRONT PAGE ARTICLE ON THE UCA REQUEST FOR MODIFICATION OF BALLOT. APPARENTLY AT REQUEST OF MPSC CHAIRMAN PANGELINAN, ARTICLE PLAYED UP ROLE OF MICRONESIAN LEGAL SERVICES IN DRAFTING UCA LETTER. MARIANAS VARIETY ALSO REPRINTED ANTI-COVENANT ARTICLE CREDITED TO STEPHEN C. MURRAY AND PUBLISHED IN APRIL 19 ISSUE OF "THE NATION".

6. (C) TYPICAL OF DISTORTED REPORTING FOUND IN MICRONESIAN INDEPENDENT

(MAJURO) IS AN ARTICLE IN MAY 9 ISSUE WHICH REPORTED THAT "WILLIAMS LAST WEEK TURNED DOWN SENATOR TENORIO'S URGENT REQUEST TO RENEGOTIATE CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE MARIANAS COVENANT". OSCAR RASA'S FREE PRESS,

WHICH PROMISED LAST WEEK TO SINK TO A NEW LOW IN ITS COMING ISSUES, CAME UP WITH NO NEW MATERIAL FOR ITS CURRENT ISSUE (DATED MAY 2 BUT RELEASED MAY 12) AND HAS AT LEAST TEMPORARILY BACKED OFF FROM ITS PERSONAL ATTACKS ON TENORIO AND HIS WIFE, PERHAPS BECAUSE RASA HAS

PAGE 05 RUHSGG9549 C O N F I D E N T I A L
BEEN OUT OF TOWN.

7. (C) UNFORTUNATELY, BUT NOT UNEXPECTEDLY, IT APPEARS SAIPANESE ELECTORATE IS BECOMING MORE OPENLY POLARIZED ON ETHNIC LINES, CHAMORROS VS. CAROLINIANS. VIA A CORDIAL LETTER, MPSC CHAIRMAN PANGELINAN HAS SET UP MEETING WITH UCA OFFICIALS, SPECIFICALLY FELIX RABAULIMAN, IN EFFORT TO OFFSET THIS TENDANCY.

8. (C) RESIGNATION OF COVENANT FOE JOE MAFNAS FROM COM AND HIS APPOINTMENT

AS SAIPAN'S POLICE CHIEF PUBLICIZED OVER WEEKEND. MAFNAS WAS TRAINED AS POLICE OFFICIAL AND IS PROBABLY BEST QUALIFIED MAN IN THE

THAT JOB. REMAINS TO BE SEEN HOW THIS DEVELOPEMENT OR REP. RASA'S EXPERIENCES IN RECENT VISIT TO NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON WILL EFFECT

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PAGE 04 210216Z

ACTIVITIES OF LATTER, WHO RETURNED TO SAIPAN OVER WEEKEND. HE WILL HAVE
NO DIFFICULTY OBTAINING RADIO TIME, BUT HAS NOT BEEN ON THE AIR YET.
BERGESEN SENDS UNQUOTE.
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