



Department of State

5/21/75

MAY 22 1975

TELEGRAM

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ACTION INT-05

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Schmitz

Capt

Col Smith

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INFO OCT-01 IO-10 EA-10 PM-03 L-02 PA-02 SS-15 SP-02 H-02.

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FM BICOMTERPACIS SAIPAN MARIANAS ISLANDS
TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC

UNCLAS. PLS PASS IMMEDIATELY TO INTDEPT/DOA FM PLEBISCITE
COMMISSIONER.

TIPI NO. 215

AS YOU KNOW WE HAVE BEEN VERY EAGER TO DISTRIBUTE A QUESTIONS
AND ANSWERS BOOKLET COPING WITH THE CHIEF QUESTIONS I HAVE
BEEN ASKED BY MANY PEOPLE. THERE ARE 29 QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.
MOST OF THEM ARE SIMPLY FACTUAL. I HAVE GONE OVER THEM
CAREFULLY WITH DAVID SCHIELE AND HE AGREES THAT THE FOLLOWING
NEED SCRUTINY IN WASHINGTON. IF YOU HAVE CHANGES PLEASE
COMMUNICATE BY OUR CLOSE OF BUSINESS HERE OF FRIDAY, MAY 23.
THEREAFTER WE WILL GO TO PRESS.

Q. OKAY, SO MAYBE THE U.S. CONGRESS WILL TURN DOWN THE COVENANT.
IS THIS POSSIBLE?

A. YES, IT IS POSSIBLE. IF THAT SHOULD HAPPEN, THINGS WOULD GO
ON AS THEY ARE NOW, FOR A TIME AT LEAST. HOWEVER, THERE WOULD
DOUBTLESS BE NEGOTIATIONS SEEKING "AN ALTERNATIVE POLITICAL
STATUS" WITH DUE REGARD TO THE VIEWS OF THE CONGRESS.

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LEBISCITE

Q. DON'T YOU THINK THE U.S. SUPREME COURT WOULD FIND SUCH
RESTRICTION OF PROPERTY OWNERSHIP UNCONSTITUTIONAL?

A. NO, I DON'T. THERE HAVE BEEN CASES RESTRICTING PROPERTY
OWNERSHIP THAT WERE TAKEN TO THE SUPREME COURT AND THE COURT
HELD SUCH ACTION TO BE CONSTITUTIONAL. THE SUPREME COURT HAS
HELD THAT THE CONSTITUTION MAY NOT BE USED TO CAUSE MISCHIEF
TO PEOPLES UNDER THE UNITED STATES JURISDICTION, AND THAT LAWS
PROTECTING AN ECONOMICALLY WEAK MINORITY ARE PERMISSIBLE UNDER

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THE CONSTITUTION. SIMILAR LAWS RESTRICTING THE OWNERSHIP OF LAND IN HAWAII AND AMERICAN SAMOA HAVE BEEN PASSED AND PROVEN EFFECTIVE IN LIMITING OWNERSHIP OF LAND.

Q. IF I VOTE FOR THE COVENANT, THE UNITED STATES MAY BUILD A BIG MILITARY BASE ON TINIAN. I WORRY ABOUT ATOMIC BOMBS OR NERVE GAS BEING STORED THERE. WHAT ASSURANCE DO I HAVE THIS WON'T HAPPEN?
A. THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT HAVE ANY PRESENT PLANS TO BUILD A BASE ON TINIAN. WHAT MAY HAPPEN IN THE FUTURE, NOBODY KNOWS. IF AND WHEN A BASE IS BUILT, IT WILL TAKE SEVERAL YEARS TO CONSTRUCT. THUS, THERE IS NO IMMEDIATE PROBLEM. BUT I UNDERSTAND AND SHARE THE CONCERNS WHICH ANYBODY MAY HAVE ABOUT SUCH ISSUES AS THE STORAGE OF NERVE GAS OR ATOMIC BOMBS. IT IS IMPORTANT TO

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REMEMBER THE PURPOSE OF THE U.S. DEFENSE FORCES. THEY ARE COMMITTED TO THE PROTECTION OF PEACE, JUSTICE AND FREEDOM. THEY ARE ULTIMATELY CONTROLLED BY CIVILIAN AUTHORITY AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT. THE ROLE OF TINIAN, SHOULD A PART OF IT BE USED FOR MILITARY PURPOSES, WOULD BE ESSENTIALLY LIKE MANY AREAS OF THE U.S. MAINLAND WHERE MILITARY BASES ARE MAINTAINED WITHOUT ADVERSE EFFECTS ON THE CIVILIAN POPULATION. I RECOGNIZE DEEPLY THE

VIEW OF ALL THOSE PERSONS DISTURBED BY THE ARMAMENTS RACE AND SHARE THEIR HOPE THAT ARMAMENTS CAN BE REDUCED.

Q. WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF COMMONWEALTH?

A. THIS IS SOMETHING YOU HAVE TO DECIDE FOR YOURSELF, LISTENING TO THE VARIOUS ARGUMENTS OF THE CAMPAIGN. CONSIDER SUCH THINGS AS UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP, WITH ITS RESPONSIBILITIES AS WELL AS ITS BENEFITS, APPLICABILITY OF U.S. FINANCIAL SUPPORT, U.S. INCOME TAX RATES, FREE MOVEMENT OF NORTHERN MARIANAS PEOPLE AND GOODS INTO THE UNITED STATES, ACCESS TO FEDERAL PROGRAMS SUCH AS SOCIAL SECURITY, SUPREMACY OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION, AND OTHERS, AND DECIDE WHETHER TO YOU THESE ARE ADVANTAGES OR DISADVANTAGES. CONSIDER ALSO WHAT KIND OF RELATIONSHIP YOU WANT WITH THE UNITED STATES AND WITH OTHER DISTRICTS IN THE TRUST TERRITORY. WEIGH THE EXPLICIT TERMS

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DON'T HAVE ANY GUARANTEED LEVEL OF SUPPORT UNDER THE PRESENT TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT, BUT THE CONGRESS CONTINUES TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS BECAUSE OF ITS OBLIGATIONS TO THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA, INCLUDING THE NORTHERN MARIANAS. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE UNITED STATES OBLIGATION TO THE MARIANAS WILL BE EVEN GREATER IF YOU BECOME AMERICAN CITIZENS UNDER THE TERMS OF THE COVENANT.

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