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 INFO RUEKJCS/CIA
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 FM CINCPACREP GUAM MARIANAS ISLANDS
 TO RUEHC /SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC
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 TAGS: PDEV TO
 MARIANAS PLEBISCITE - FIFTH WEEKLY REPORT (U)
 A, SECSTAE WASHINGTON DC 1923342 MAY 75.
 B, CINCPACREP GUAM MARIANAS ISLANDS 1409252 MAY 75.
 C, STATUS LNO 107C.

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JUN 6 101PH '75

1. (U) IAW REF A, REF B IS RETRANSMITTED BEGINNING WITH PARA 1 QUOTE SUMMARY: MAJOR ACTIVITY FOR WEEK WAS NEAR COMPLETION OF VOTER REGISTRATION AND USE OF FCEE 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 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 MAX 10 AT MIDNIGHT, THE FIRST TWO ABSENTEE BALLOTS WERE CAST OVER THE WEEKEND, BOAT WILL MAKE TRIP MAY 14 OR 15 TO REGISTER

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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 OLOPAT, FELIX RABAULPHAN, DR. BENUSTO KAIPAT, SENATOR TENDRIO, CONGRESSMAN HERMAN R. GUERRERO, 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 COMMONWEALTH", 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 AND BEING DISTRIBUTED MAY 14.

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

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FORM 37-1
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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 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 TT FOR THAT JOB, REMAINS TO BE SEEN HOW THIS DEVELOPEMENT OR REP. RASA'S EXPERIENCES IN RECENT VISIT TO NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON WILL EFFECT 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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