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ORIG.....PLEBISCITE  
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PTTUZYUW RUHGSAA0013 1411132-UUUU--RUHGSUU.

ZNR UUUUU  
P 211132Z  
FM HICOMTERPACIS SAIPAN MARIANAS ISLANDS  
TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC

INFO.....STATUS LNO

BT  
UNCLAS. PLS PASS IMMEDIATELY TO INTDEPT/DOIA 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.

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  
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  
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  
PLACES OF THE U.S. MAINLAND WHERE MILITARY BASES ARE MAINTAINED WITH  
OUT ADVERSE EFFECTS ON THE CIVILIAN POPULATION. I RECOGNIZE DEEPLY THE  
VIEWS OF ALL THOSE PERSONS DISTURBED BY THE ARMAMENTS RACE AND

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**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 PRESENTED IN THE COVENANT AND MAKE UP YOUR OWN MIND. IF THE COVENANT IS REJECTED, YOU WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY IN THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA-INITIATED REFERENDUM ON JULY 8 TO INDICATE YOUR FEELINGS FOR OR AGAINST MANY "ALTERNATIVE POLITICAL STATUSES". THESE INCLUDE INDEPENDENCE, COMMONWEALTH, FREE ASSOCIATION, STATEHOOD, THE PRESENT STATUS, AND "OTHER".**

**Q. SPEAKING OF CAMPAIGN ARGUMENTS, RECENTLY I SAW A PUBLICATION ASKING WHETHER I PREFERRED PRESIDENT FORD OR SENATE PRESIDENT NAKAYAMA OR SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE HENRY OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA. THE SAME PUBLICATION SHOWED A MODERN-STYLE HOTEL ON SAIPAN COMPARED WITH PALM-THATCHED HOUSES IN OTHER DISTRICTS. I HAVE ALSO SEEN WHAT I BELIEVE TO BE WILD CHARGES IN OPPOSITION TO THE COVENANT, SUCH AS ACCUSATIONS AGAINST PERSONAL INTEGRITY OF SUPPORTERS. IS THIS KIND OF CAMPAIGNING FAIR? ARE YOU, AS PLEBISCITE COMMISSIONER, GOING TO CORRECT FALSE STATEMENTS MADE IN THE CAMPAIGN?**

**A. IF I WERE TO CORRECT ALL OF THE WILD AND EXAGGERATED STATEMENTS MADE IN THIS CAMPAIGN I WOULD HAVE NO TIME FOR ANYTHING ELSE: MOREOVER I WOULD SEEM, AS LEAST, TO PUT MYSELF INTO A PARTISAN POSITION ON ONE SIDE OR THE OTHER. I TRY TO MAKE PUBLIC ONLY IMPARTIAL, FACTUAL INFORMATION. MANY MATTERS INVOLVE JUDGMENT AND PERSONAL OPINION. HERE YOU VOTERS ENTER THE PICTURE. I ADVISE YOU TO DISCOUNT WILD CLAIMS MADE BY EITHER SIDE, RECOGNIZING THAT ALL POLITICAL CAMPAIGNING TENDS TO EXAGGERATE, AND USE YOUR OWN GOOD COMMON SENSE.**

**Q. SOME PEOPLE SAY THAT FINANCIAL HELP THE UNITED STATES WILL GIVE US WILL END AFTER SEVEN YEARS. IF THAT SHOULD HAPPEN, WOULDN'T IT PLACE US IN A BAD ECONOMIC SITUATION?**

**A. THE COVENANT STATES THAT U.S. FINANCIAL HELP WILL CONTINUE AT THE SAME LEVEL BEYOND THE FIRST SEVEN YEARS UNLESS CONGRESS ACTS TO CHANGE IT. THERE IS NO GUARANTEE IN THE COVENANT AS TO THE LEVEL OF SUPPORT AFTER THE SEVEN YEARS, BUT IT WOULDN'T MAKE ANY SENSE FOR THE UNITED STATES TO POUR A LOT OF MONEY AND EFFORT INTO THE NORTHERN MARIANAS FOR SEVEN YEARS AND SUDDENLY ABANDON THEM. YOU 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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MAY 27 1975

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INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 EA-10 L-02 PA-02 /030 R

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INFO USMISSION USUN NY

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PFOR, TG  
SUBJECT: QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS  
REF: YOUR TTPI NO. 215

DOTA NO. 182-TT

PASS PLEBISCITE COMMISSIONER FROM ACTING DOTA

1. FOLLOWING ARE SUGGESTED ADDITIONS AND/OR REVISIONS IN DRAFT ANSWERS PROVIDED IN REFTEL.
2. QUESTION RE POSSIBILITY THAT U.S. CONGRESS MIGHT TURN DOWN THE COVENANT.

ANSWER: THE CONGRESS HAS BEEN INFORMED AND CONSULTED THROUGHOUT THE COURSE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. THE COVENANT WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE CONGRESS FOR APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL BUT NOT FOR REVISION OR AMENDMENT. THE CONGRESS OF COURSE HAS THE RIGHT TO TURN DOWN THE COVENANT IF IT SO DECIDES. IF THIS SHOULD HAPPEN, THINGS WOULD GO ON AS THEY ARE NOW I.E. THE POLITICAL STATUS IN THE MARIANAS DISTRICT WOULD REMAIN UNCHANGED.

3. QUESTION RE SUPREME COURT

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- ANSWER: CONCUR, WITH TWO SUGGESTED ADDITIONS: AT BEGINNING OF SECOND SENTENCE ADD QUOTE I UNDERSTAND FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE THAT THERE HAVE BEEN CASES ...UNQUOTE; AND AT THE END OF LAST SENTENCE ADD QUOTE TO PERSONS OF LOCAL DESCENT UNQUOTE.

4. QUESTION RE TINIAN.

- ANSWER: THE U.S. DOES NOT HAVE ANY PRESENT PLANS TO BUILD A MILITARY BASE ON TINIAN AND NO PLANS TO STORE ANY WEAPONS OF ANY KIND ANYWHERE IN THE NORTHERN MARIANAS. IF IN FUTURE, NEEDS SHOULD REQUIRE THAT A PART OF TINIAN SHOULD BE USED FOR A MILITARY BASE, THE NECESSARY FACILITIES WOULD BE BUILT AND MAINTAINED WITH THE INTERESTS, WELFARE AND SAFETY OF THE CIVILIAN POPULATION BEING GIVEN FULL CONSIDERATION AND PROTECTION AS PRESCRIBED FOR BY LAW. IT IS IMPORTANT TO 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 VIEWS OF ALL THOSE PERSONS DISTURBED BY THE ARMAMENTS RACE AND SHARE THEIR HOPE AS WELL AS THE HOPES OF MY GOVERNMENT THAT ARMAMENTS CAN BE REDUCED.

5. QUESTION RE U.S. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

- ANSWER: THE OBJECTIVE OF THE USG IN THE FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS TO WORK OUT THE COMMONWEALTH ARRANGEMENT WAS ULTIMATE ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NMI. THE PROVISIONS FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT INCLUDE NOT ONLY THE GUARANTEED AMOUNT FOR THE FIRST SEVEN YEARS, BUT ALSO A GREAT NUMBER OF MAJOR BENEFITS THROUGH FEDERAL PROGRAMS IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION, WELFARE AND SOCIAL SECURITY WHICH WOULD BE ONGOING. THE USG MAINTAINS SUCH PROGRAMS SO LONG AS THE NEED EXISTS. ADDITIONALLY OF COURSE THE RETENTION IN THE MARIANAS OF ALL

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TAX REVENUE COLLECTED IN THE COMMONWEALTH MAY BE EXPECTED TO PROVIDE CONSIDERABLE FINANCIAL BENEFIT. SINCE SUCH REVENUE MAY BE EXPECTED TO INCREASE AS THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPS ECONOMICALLY, IT SHOULD GO FAR TO THE ATTAINMENT OF ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY.

COMMENT: WE APPRECIATE OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE FACTS AND WE OF COURSE FULLY RESPECT PLEBISCITE COMMISSIONER'S MANDATE TO CONDUCT HIS OWN IMPARTIAL PROGRAM. INGERSOLL

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