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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, TQ
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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Department of State **TELEGRAM**

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PAGE 02 STATE 121129

- 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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Department of State

TELEGRAM

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 121129

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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