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Department of State

MAY 27 1975

TELEGRAM

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ACTION COPY

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ACTION INT-05

INFO OCT-01 SS-15 SP-02 EA-10 IO-10 L-03 H-02 INR-07

PRS-01 PA-02 USIA-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 NSAF-00 /078 W
070772

P 270630Z MAY 75
FM HICOMTEPPACIS SAIPAN MARIANAS ISLANDS
TO RUEHC /SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC
COMTWELVE SAN FRANCISCO CA
RUEHC /JCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC
RUEHDT /US MISSION TO UN NEW YORK NY

Amb's Back ✓
Schmitz
Capt
Col Smith

MVTrent - cy
Archer
de Graffenried

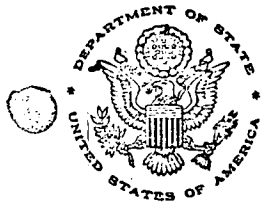
UNCLAS.
FROM STATUS LNO 135
PASS TO DEPT INTERIOR FOR OMSN (ACTION) AND DOTA (INFO)
COMTWELVE FOR AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS
STATE FOR EA, IO/UNP, L/UNA
DEFENSE FOR OSD/ISA
WHITE HOUSE FOR NSC
USIUN FOR AMBASSADOR WHITE
PASS JUSTICE FOR MARCUSE (OLC)
F.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDEV TO
SUBJECT: MARIANAS PLEBISCITE UPDATE

PAGE 02 RUMGSAA1730 UNCLAS.
1. IN TV APPEARANCE EVENING MAY 26 PLEBISCITE COMMISSIONER CANHAM ANNOUNCED THAT OF 155 PERSONS WHOSE REGISTRATION IN NORTHERN MARIANAS HAD BEEN CHALLENGED, 12 NAMES HAD BEEN REMOVED BY VOTER REGISTRATION BOARD ON GROUNDS THEY WERE NOT DOMICILED HERE. BOARD ALSO REJECTED BLANKET CHALLENGE TO REGISTRATION OF ABOUT 80 MARIANAS CITIZENS AT PRESENT IN GUAM, CANHAM REPORTED. SOME ABSENTEE REGISTRATIONS STILL BEING RECEIVED; PLEBISCITE ELECTORAL ROLLS NOW INCLUDE APPROXIMATELY 5,300 NAMES.
2. PDN (GUAM) FOR MAY 27 REPORTS ABOVE FIGURES AND NOTES CHALLENGE

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TO 155 NAMES WAS BY MPSC. VOTER REGISTRATION BOARD'S DECISIONS WITH RESPECT TO BOTH GROUPS CAN BE APPEALED DURING THREE WORKING DAYS OF NOTIFICATION OR FOLLOWING PUBLICATION OF VOTER REGISTRATION LIST WHICH HAS NOT YET TAKEN PLACE.

3. ALONSO RASA HAS RESIGNED FROM VOTER REGISTRATION BOARD ON GROUNDS OF "EXCESSIVE STRAIN." ON RASA'S RECOMMENDATION PLEBISCITE COMMISSIONER OFFERED SEAT TO BEN PITTAL, WHO DECLINED BECAUSE OF PLANS TO DEPART SAIPAN TO STUDY ON GUAM.

4. PDN MAY 27 ALSO REPORTED ACTING SECRETARY OF INTERIOR KENT FRITZEL'S MAY 23 LETTER REJECTING REQUEST FOR CHANGE IN "NO" VOTE LANGUAGE ON PLEBISCITE BALLOT. JOAN KING'S SAIPAN DATED LINED ARTICLE

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SAYD "SOME POLITICAL OBSERVERS HERE MAINTAIN THAT WITH RECENT SEA MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS AND U.S. BASE CLOSINGS THE U.S. WILL CONTINUE TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE MARIANAS DUE TO THE U.S. MILITARY'S NEED FOR LAND ON TINIAN, EVEN IF THE COVENANT IS REJECTED."

5. WITH DEPARTURE OF A NUMBER OF PROMINENT MARIANAS FIGURES FOR UNTC SESSION IN NEW YORK LOCAL SCENE IS COMPARATIVELY QUIET ALTHOUGH BOTH PLEBISCITE ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND VOTER REGISTRATION BOARD MET TODAY.

6. WE UNDERSTAND UCA WILL NOT SEND REPS TO UNTC. BERGSEN.

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