

1975
(UCA GROUP'S REQUEST DENIED)

SAIPAN, MAY 27 (MNS)---ACTING SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR KENT FRIZZELL HAS DENIED THE UNITED CAROLINIAN ASSOCIATIONS (UCA) REQUEST TO CHANGE THE "NO" BALLOT LANGUAGE FOR THE JUNE 17 PLEBISCITE.

FRIZZELL WROTE HIS DECISION IN A MAY 23 LETTER TO THE UCA, ACCORDING TO TUESDAY'S PACIFIC DAILY NEWS.

STATING THAT HE WISH "TO ASSURE YOU THAT THE PRESENT LANGUAGE WAS INTENDED TO BE ENTIRELY FAIR AND IMPARTIAL," FRIZZELL SAID THE WORDING WAS AGREED UPON BY THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, "ONLY AFTER THE MOST CAREFUL CONSIDERATION OF THE OBLIGATIONS OF THE U.S. UNDER THE TRUSTESHIP AGREEMENT."

FRIZZELL EXPLAINED THE "YES" VOTE WAS STATED AS IT WAS, "WITHOUT AMPLIFICATION," BECAUSE THE COMMONWEALTH COVENANT ITSELF SETS FORTH THE MEANING OF A POSITIVE VOTE IN TERMS OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS AND THE SUBSEQUENT SEPARATION FROM THE OTHER DISTRICTS, IF THE COVENANT IS APPROVED BY BOTH THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS AND THE U.S. CONGRESS.

THE "NO" VOTE WAS WORDED "TO MAKE IT CLEAR TO THE VOTERS THAT OPTIONS OTHER THAN COMMONWEALTH AND POLITICAL UNION WITH THE U.S. WERE OPEN" TO THE PEOPLE, FRIZZELL STATED IN HIS LETTER.

"THE UNITED STATES WANTED THE PEOPLE TO KNOW THAT IF THE SIGNED COMMONWEALTH COVENANT WERE TO BE REJECTED, THE IMMEDIATE EFFECT WOULD BE THAT THE NORTHERN MARIANAS WOULD CONTINUE IN THEIR PRESENT STATUS, THAT THEY WOULD NOT BE SEPARATED ADMINISTRATIVELY FROM THE TRUST TERRITORY (TT) GOVERNMENT, AND THAT THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS WOULD HAVE A FULL OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE WITH OTHER DISTRICTS IN CONSIDERING FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS ALTERNATIVES," FRIZZELL WROTE.

IN RESPONSE TO THE UCA'S ASSERTION THAT "BIAS AND EMOTION" WERE INJECTED INTO THE "NO" WORDING, FRIZZELL SAID HE COULD "ONLY RESPOND WITH A FIRM AND UNQUALIFIED DISAVOWAL OF ANY SUCH INTENTION."

FRIZZELL MAINTAINED, "GIVEN THE LIMITS OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION AND POLITICAL REALITIES, THE COMMONWEALTH COVENANT, WHICH WILL COME BEFORE THE VOTERS IN THE JUNE 17 PLEBISCITE FOR THEIR ACCEPTANCE OR REJECTION, REPRESENTS IN EFFECT THE EXTENT TO WHICH U.S. GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED TO GO TO MEET THAT DESIRE.

THE BALLOT WORDING, ISSUED BY THE SECRETARIAL PROCLAMATION IS:

-YES--I VOTE FOR COMMONWEALTH AS SET FORTH IN THE COVENANT TO ESTABLISH A COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS IN POLITICAL UNION WITH THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

-NO--I VOTE AGAINST COMMONWEALTH IN POLITICAL UNION WITH THE U.S. AS SET FORTH IN THE COVENANT RECOGNIZING THAT, IF COMMONWEALTH IS REJECTED, THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS WILL REMAIN AS A DISTRICT OF THE TRUST TERRITORY WITH THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE WITH THE OTHE DISTRICTS IN THE DETERMINATION OF AN ALTERNATIVE FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS.

THE REQUESTED CHANGE OF THE "NO" BALLOT WOULD HAVE DELETED ALL LANGUAGE AFTER "COVENANT," LEAVING THE BALLOT TO READ, "NO--I VOTE AGAINST COMMONWEALTH IN POLITICAL UNION WITH THE UNITED STATES AS SET FORTH IN THE COVENANT,"

THE PRESIDENT OF UCA, FELIX RABAUIMAN, IS OFF THE ISLANDS TUESDAY AND CANNOT TO REACHED FOR COMMENT.

14366

(TRUK LEGISLATURE COVENES)

TRUK, MAY 27 (MNS)---THE 40-DAY REGULAR SESSION OF THE TWENTY FIFTH TRUK DISTRICT LEGISLATURE GOT UNDERWAY LAST WEEK ON TUESDAY, (MAY 20), ACCORDING TO NOHA RUBEN, TRUK PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER.

OPENING REMARKS WERE MADE BY DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR (DISTAD) MITARO DANIS, CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA SENATE PRESIDENT TOSIWO NAKAYAMA, LEGISLATURE PRESIDENT KOICHI SANA AND MOEN MAYOR FUCHITA BOSSY.

IN HIS REMARKS BEFORE THE LAWMAKERS, DISTAD DANIS OUTLINED AREAS HE FELT ARE OF VITAL IMPORTANCE TO TRUK DISTRICT. THEY INCLUDE YOUTH PROGRAMS, MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES, FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES PROGRAMS, ADULT EDUCATION, AN OLD AGE PROGRAM, THE IT-WIDE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION AND THE REFERENDUM, AND THE NEED TO ESTABLISH A DISTRICT PLANNING COMMISSION.

HE THANKED THE LEGISLATURE, THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, THE HIGH COMMISSIONER AS WELL AS OTHER TRUKESE INDIVIDUALS "FOR MAKING ME THE FIRST TRUKESE TO HEAD THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH IN OUR DISTRICT."

SENATE PRESIDENT NAKAYAMA TOLD THE LEGISLATORS IN HIS REMARKS THAT MICRONESIA IS NOW FACING A "CRITICAL MOMENT" AND THAT THE SESSION SHOULD BE DEVOTED TO IMPORTANT MATTERS" HE REMINDED THE LEGISLATURE OF THE MARIANAS PLEBISCITE ON JUNE 17, THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA SPECIAL SESSION ON JUNE 23RD, THE MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION JULY 12 AND IT-WIDE REFERENDUM JULY 8TH. ALSO, NAKAYAMA SAID PALAU DISTRICT IS DRAFTING ITS OWN CONSTITUTION AND THE MARSHALL ISLANDS ARE TALKING ABOUT PURSUING SEPARATE NEGOTIATION WITH THE UNITED STATES.

CONCERNING POLITICAL STATUS, NAKAYAMA SAID, "IT IS OUR DUTY AS LEGISLATORS TO STUDY WHICH POLITICAL STATUS ALTERNATIVE SHOULD BEST MEET THE DESIRES AND WISHES OF OUR PEOPLE.

"WE AS LEGISLATORS SHOULD TRY TO ANSWER THE MANY LEGITIMATE QUESTIONS THAT ARE VERY OFTEN OF SOME MAJOR CONCERN OF OUR PEOPLE," HE ADDED.

IN CONCLUDING, SENATOR NAKAYAMA URGED THE LEGISLATORS TO PASS RESOLUTIONS SPECIFYING AND EXPLAINING THE WISHES AND DESIRES OF THE TRUKESE PEOPLE.

LEGISLATURE PRESIDENT KOICHI SANA ALSO URGED JOINT EFFORT IN HELPING THE PEOPLE ESPECIALLY IN A TIME OF "GREAT CONFUSION IN OUR PURSUIT OF OUR FUTURE STATUS." HE CITED FIVE MAJOR AREAS FOR THE LEGISLATURE TO CONSIDER. THEY INCLUDE: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS, FISHERIES AND AGRICULTURE, HEALTH AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND TRADITIONAL LAWS. HE ADDED THAT THERE IS A NEED FOR A DISTRICT PLANNING COMMISSION TO COORDINATE AND REVIEW PLANS FOR THE OVERALL PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE DISTRICT.

(TWO GROUPS ASK PLEBISCITE HALT)

UNITED NATIONS, MAY 27 (MNS)---TWO PRIVATE GROUPS FROM AUSTRALIA AND THE UNITED STATES HAVE FILED OBJECTIONS TO THE JUNE 17 PLEBISCITE IN THE NORTHER MARIANA ISLANDS AND ASKED THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL TO CANCEL IT, OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS REVEALED LAST WEEK.

ACCORDING TO A UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL (UPI) STORY OUT OF NEW YORK WHICH APPEARED ON SATURDAY'S PACIFIC DAILY NEWS, THE COUNCIL WILL DISCUSS THE TRUST TERRITORY (TT) WHICH INCLUDES THE MARIANAS. THE UNITED STATES IS EXPECTED TO OPEN THE DEBATE BY SUBMITTING A REPORT ON ADMINISTRATION OF THE TT. PETITIONERS AND COMPLAINTS ARE TO BE HEARD WEDNESDAY (MAY 28), UPI REPORTED.

14367

IN THE PAST, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS HAVE PROMOTED ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIAL CLOSE LINKS WITH THE UNITED STATES INDEPENDENT FROM THE REST OF MICRONESIA.

OBJECTIONS TO THE PLEBISCITE WERE SUBMITTED BY THE AUSTRALIAN STUDENT CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT (ASCM) AND A GROUP CALLED "FRIENDS OF MICRONESIA" IN CALIFORNIA.

IN A LETTER FROM ADELAIDE, ASCM'S INTERNATIONAL OFFICER ALISON ARBLASTER CHARGED THE UNITED STATES WITH TRYING TO SPLIT MICRONESIA TO TIE THE MARIANAS CLOSELY TO AMERICA.

"IT SEEMS MORE THAN COINCIDENTAL," THE LETTER SAID, "THAT THE UNITED STATES WISHES TO BUILD A LARGE NEW NAVAL BASE ON TINIAN AND THAT LARGE UNITED STATES CORPORATIONS ARE AT THE MOMENT INVESTING HEAVILY IN SAIPAN. THE UNITED STATES OBVIOUSLY INTENDS TO REMAIN A SIGNIFICANT FORCE IN THE REST OF MICRONESIA, TOO, BUT HAS DECIDED TO DEVELOP A RELATIONSHIP WITH THE MARIANAS SIMILAR TO THAT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND PUERTO RICO...

"IT IS DISTURBING THAT THERE IS NO UNITED NATIONS SUPERVISION OF THIS PLEBISCITE... I URGE THAT THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL TAKE ALL POSSIBLE STEPS TO HALT THE PROPOSED PLEBISCITE," THE LETTER SAID.

ARBLASTER ALSO ASKED THE COUNCIL TO HOLD A FULL DEBATE ON MICRONESIA AND TO HEAR TWO MICRONESIANS DELEGATED BY THE RECENT NUCLEAR FREE PACIFIC CONFERENCE IN FIJI.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION, EDWARD DLG. PANGELINAN IS OFF THE ISLAND AND CANNOT BE REACHED FOR COMMENT. PANGELINAN LEFT SAIPAN LAST WEEK FOR NEW YORK TO APPEAR BEFORE THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL MEETING TO PRESENT TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF THE COMMONWEALTH STATUS FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANAS.

(TENORIO COMPLETES IBM COURSE)

SAIPAN, MAY 27(MNS)---JUAN P. TENORIO, OF SAIPAN, RETURNED TO THE TRUST TERRITORY LAST WEEK UPON COMPLETION OF A FOUR WEEK TRAINING COURSE IN COMPUTER MANAGEMENT WHICH WAS HELD IN BUDAPEST, HUNGARY.

TENORIO ATTENDED THE INTERNATIONAL COMPUTER EDUCATION CENTER (SZAMOK) IN BUDAPEST. THE SCHOOL IS SPONSORED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF HUNGARY AND REPRESENTS 21 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES. TENORIO'S TRAINING WAS MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH A UNITED NATIONS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.

THE 29-YEAR-OLD ASSISTANT MANAGER OF THE AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING, DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE HOLDS A B.S. DEGREE IN MATH FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF GUAM. TENORIO IS THE FIRST MICRONESIAN TO BE TRAINED IN A SOCIALIST COUNTRY.