

10/5

HICOMINTPACIS SAIPAN
MARIANAS ISLANDS

US MISSION TO UN NEW YORK NY
CINCPACREGUAM/TIPT UNCLASSIFIED

STATUS LNO
SCHIELE 5/29/75

SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC
COMINWELVE SAN FRANCISCO CA
JCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
WHITE HOUSE
ROUTINE

ROUTINE

FROM STATUS LNO 137

PASS TO DEPT INTERIOR FOR OMEN (ACTION) AND BOTA (INFO)
COMINWELVE FOR AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS
STATE FOR RA, IO/IMP, L/UNA
DEFENSE FOR OSD/ISA
WHITE HOUSE FOR NSC
USUN FOR AMBASSADOR WHITE
PASS JUSTICE FOR MARGUSE (OLC)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: F00V TQ

SUBJECT: PRESS COVERAGE OF MARIANAS FLEETSCITE CAMPAIGN

1. MAY 29 PACIFIC DAILY NEWS (GUAM) CARRIES LENGTHY ARTICLE BY
GUADALUPE BORJA DESCRIBING WELL ATTENDED PRO-COVENANT RALLY ON
SAIPAN EVENING OF MAY 27. MISS BORJA COMPARES RALLY TO SPARCELY ATTENDED
ANTI-COVENANT MEETING HELD PREVIOUS NIGHT AND REPORTS THAT "UNLIKE
THE ANTI-COVENANT SPEAKERS WHO DREW SOME HECKLERS, THOSE BACKING
THE DOCUMENT WERE CHEERED LOUDLY." SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF COVENANT,
NPSC MEMBER DANIEL MUSA ARGUED THAT THERE WILL BE "NO OTHER
OPPORTUNITY TO NEGOTIATE A COMMONWEALTH STATUS" AND THAT MARIANAS
HAVE OPPORTUNITY FOR FINANCIAL BENEFITS AND SELF-GOVERNMENT UNDER
PRESENT DOCUMENT. NPSC MEMBER BEN MANCLONA MADE POINT THAT COVENANT
PROVIDES BENEFITS NOT GIVEN OTHER US TERRITORIES, INCLUDING RIGHT
TO DRAFT LOCAL CONSTITUTION. HE ALSO DISCUSSED TAXES AND FINANCIAL
BENEFITS, POINTING OUT THAT FEDERAL INCOME TAX SCHEDULE WERE EQUITABLE
THAN IT TAX AND THAT REVENUE WOULD REMAIN IN NORTHERN MARIANAS.

LNO

MORE FOLLOWS

03 - 022956

STATUS LNO 137

2

JOANNES TAIMANO, ALSO MPSC MEMBER, REPORTED AS SAYING COVENANT PROVIDES ISLANDS OPPORTUNITY FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT FOR FIRST TIME IN 300 YEARS.

2. RALLY WAS APPARENTLY FESTIVE OCCASION AND INCLUDED SINGING OF PRO-COVENANT SONGS IN CHAMORRO TO ACCOMPANIMENT OF GUITAR. SONGS REPORTEDLY INCLUDED ONE WITH LYRICS INCLUDING "DON'T LISTEN TO OSCAR RASA--HE'S A LIAR" SUNG TO TUNE OF "JAMBALAYA." OTHER SONG CONTAINED LINE "LET'S VOTE COMMONWEALTH SO WE CAN GET OUT OF THE MICRONESIAN FLAG AND JOIN THE AMERICAN FLAG."

BERGESEN

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