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P 050112Z JUN 75
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 INFO RUEK CIA/CIA
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 RUEBWD/CSA WASH DC
 P 041432Z JUN 75 (ZEL)
 FM HICOMTERPACIS SAIPAN MARIANAS ISLANDS
 TO RUEHC /SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC
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FROM STATUS LNO 145
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 E, O, 11652; N/A
 TAGS: PDEV TO
 SUBJECT: MARIANAS PLEBISCITE--EIGHTH WEEKLY REPORT
 REF: (A) STATUS LNO 136
 (B) STATUS LNO 137

1. SUMMARY: PLEBISCITE COMMISSIONER'S EFFORTS CONCENTRATED ON POLITICAL EDUCATION PHASE OF PROGRAM. LOCAL POLITICAL ACTIVITY AT COMPARATIVELY LOW LEVEL AS MPSC LEADERS IN WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK WHILE OPPONENTS WERE SOMEWHAT LESS VOCAL. END SUMMARY.
 2. ABSENTEE VOTER REGISTRATION COMPLETE WITH TOTAL OF 5,471 ON ROLLS. COURT CHALLENGES TO DECISIONS OF VOTER REGISTRATION BOARD POSSIBLE THROUGH JUNE 4, AS OF MID DAY JUNE 4, MPSC MEMBERS HAD CHALLENGED 24 PERSONS PRESENTLY ON ROLLS, AT LEAST 74 REGISTRANTS WHO ARE HOLDERS OF ALIEN REGISTRATION CARDS ON GUAM HAVE BEEN CHALLENGED BY COVENANT FOES, OF 31 PERSONS REJECTED BY VRB, ONLY ONE HAD APPEALED TO COURT TO HAVE NAME PUT BACK ON ROLLS. WITH

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REGISTRATION ACTIVITIES VIRTUALLY COMPLETE, PLEBISCITE COMMISSIONER NOW SPENDING MORE TIME ON EDUCATION EFFORT AND IS PRESENTING CONTENTS OF HIS QUESTION AND ANSWER BOOKLET ON RADIO AND TELEVISION. PLEBISCITE COMMISSIONER PUBLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE TO PUBLIC ARE COVENANT (CAROLINIAN, CHAMORRO, AND ENGLISH), TECHNICAL AGREEMENT (CHAMORRO AND ENGLISH), COVENANT "PRIMER" (ENGLISH), QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS (ENGLISH), AND SECRETARIAL ORDER (CHAMORRO AND ENGLISH). CHAMORRO TRANSLATIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE IN NEXT FEW DAYS, COMMISSIONER STILL ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN CAROLINIAN TRANSLATIONS. 3. IN ADDITION TO RADIO AND TV APPEARANCES BY CANHAM, FREE TIME WAS USED DURING WEEK BY JOHN ROSARIO, JOAQUIN (MITCH) RANGELINAN, DR. CARLOS CAMACHO, ABEL OLOPEI, SENATOR PEDRO TENORIO, DINO JONES, AND JUAN DEMAPAN, ROSARIO, WHO IS ON COM STAFF AND HAS REGULAR COLUMN CRITICAL OF COVENANT IN "MICRONESIAN INDEPENDENT" (MAJURO), EMPHASIZED ALLEGED DANGER FROM MILITARY USE OF MARIANAS, PLAYING HEAVILY ON INJURIES INFLICTED BY NUCLEAR TESTING IN MARSHALLS AND EMPHASIZING POSSIBILITIES OF "ACCIDENTS" CONCERNING STORAGE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND NERVE GAS IN MARIANAS. MITCH PENGELINAN, AN MPSC MEMBER, SUPPORTED COVENANT, AS DID DR. CAMACHO. CAMACHO EMPHASIZED OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVED HEALTH AND MEDICAL FACILITIES UNDER COVENANT. SENATOR TENORIO, WHO TAPED HIS TALK BEFORE DEPARTING FOR NEW YORK, SPOKE AT SOME LENGTH OF THE "INTERFERENCE" BY CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA IN PLEBISCITE AND ARGUED THAT NO BASIS EXISTS FOR UNITY OF THE MARIANAS WITH REST OF MICRONESIA. JONES SPOKE AGAINST THE COVENANT. DEMAPAN, AN EARLY COVENANT SUPPORTER WHO REVERSED HIS POSITION HAS AGAIN REVERSED FIELD; HE CAME OUT IN FAVOR OF THE DOCUMENT ON JUNE 3. 4. PRESS COVERAGE INCLUDES ACCOUNTS IN THE PACIFIC DAILY NEWS (GUAM) OF POLITICAL RALLIES BY SUPPORTERS AND OPPONENTS OF THE COVENANT (REFTEL B) AND JUNE 3 STORY INDICATING NATIONAL OFFICE OF AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION HAS WRITTEN TO GUAM ACLU, OBJECTING TO PLEBISCITE. MARIANAS VARIETY (SAIPAN) ON MAY 30 HAD ITEM ON DECISION NOT TO CHANGE THE WORDING OF THE BALLOT. VARIETY ALSO PICKED UP ARTICLE FROM JUNE ISSUE OF "THE PROGRESSIVE," WRITTEN BY JUDITH MILLER, WHICH EMPHASIZES MILITARY BASIS OF U.S. INTEREST IN MARIANAS AND SPEAKS OF "CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR A MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR BASE AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS WAREHOUSE" ON TINIAN. ADDITIONAL ARTICLES INCLUDE COM RELEASE ON COURT APPEAL OF VOTER REGISTRATION BOARD DECISION, AND ARTICLE BASED ON INTERVIEW WITH SENATOR TENORIO PRIOR TO DEPARTURE FOR UNTC. OTHERWISE, THE MEDIA SCENE WAS QUIET. THE SASAS' "FREE PRESS"

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AGAIN FAILED TO APPEAR; THERE WAS NO NEW EDITION OF THE "COVENANT NEWSLETTER" OR THE PRO-COVENANT CHAMORRO-LANGUAGE PAPER, AND THERE WERE NO POLITICAL ADS IN THIS WEEK'S MARIANAS VARIETY, PART OF THIS DEARTH OF ACTIVITY CAN BE EXPLAINED BY THE ABSENCE OF KEY MEMBERS OF THE MPSC, IN NEW YORK FOR THE UNYC MEETING; AS TO THE COVENANT'S OPPONENTS, IT LOOKS AS THOUGH THEY HAVE EXHAUSTED THEIR FUNDS, THERE HAS BEEN NO SIGNIFICANT LOCAL COMMENT ON UNYC SPEECHES AND, TO DATE, LITTLE EVIDENCE OF INTEREST IN WHAT WAS SAID THERE.

5, NIGHTLY VILLAGE MEETINGS OF COVENANT SUPPORTERS CONTINUED IN ABSENCE OF MPSC LEADERSHIP, JUST RETURNED FROM WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK, PARTICIPATION IN MEETINGS REPORTEDLY REDUCED, PERHAPS BECAUSE ISSUES ARE RECEIVING FULL AIRING ON RADIO AND TV, OPPOSITION MEETINGS CONTINUE BUT LESS FREQUENTLY; THEY ARE SPARSELY ATTENDED, AS HAS BEEN CASE FOR TWO WEEKS. OPPOSITION DID NOT ATTEND UNYC, DESPITE EXPRESSED INTENT OF OSCAR RASA FOR PERMISSION FOR HIMSELF AND SEVEN OTHERS TO APPEAR AT SESSION.

6, MLSC LAWYERS, WHO PREVIOUSLY INDICATED POSSIBILITY OF COURT CHALLENGE OF SECRETARIAL ORDER IN EVENT OF FAILURE TO CHANGE BALLOT, DEPARTEGLYUNE 3 TO PARTICIPATE IN OFF-ISLAND CONFERENCE AND WILL BE GONE ONE WEEK, WHILE POSSIBLE THAT CASE WILL BE BROUGHT AT LAST MINUTE, THIS NOW APPEARS UNLIKELY, BERGESEN.

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