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ACTION INT-05

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P 110625Z JUN 75
FM HICOMTERPACIS SAIPAN MARIANAS ISLANDS
TO RUEHC /SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC
COMTWELVE SAN FRANCISCO CA
JCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC
INFO CINCPACREP GUAM TPTI MARIANAS ISLANDS
RUEHDT /US MISSION TO UN NEW YORK NY

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FROM STATUS LNO 160
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)
E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDEV TO

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SUBJECT: MARIANAS PLEBISCITE -- NINTH WEEKLY REPORT
REF: STATUS LNO 145
STATUS LNO 157

1. SUMMARY: SPECIAL APPELLATE COURT REMOVED 93 VOTERS FROM ROLLS ON JUNE 10. COVENANT SUPPORTERS WON BY SUBSTANTIAL MARGIN IN JUNE 8 TINIAN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL ELECTION. PUBLIC DEBATE CONTINUES AS "YES" AND "NO" SIGNS APPEAR. END SUMMARY.
2. TT CHIEF JUSTICE, SITTING AS SOLE MEMBER OF SPECIAL PLEBISCITE APPELLATE COURT, ISSUED DECISION ON JUNE 10 WHICH REMOVED FROM REGISTRATION ROLLS ALL 74 PERSONS CHALLENGED BY COVENANT FOES ON BASIS OF THEIR POSSESSION OF ALIEN REGISTRATION CARDS AND RESIDENCE

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ON GUAM, OF 24 PERSONS CHALLENGED BY COVENANT SUPPORTERS, 19 WERE STRICKEN FROM ROLLS (ONE BECAUSE OF AGE). FIVE CHALLENGES WERE WITHDRAWN. ADDITIONALLY, COURT REJECTED ATTEMPT OF ONE INDIVIDUAL TO BE PLACED BACK ON ROLLS AFTER REMOVAL BY VOTER REGISTRATION BOARD. COURT DECISION TO STRIKE 74 PERSONS HOLDING ALIEN REGISTRATION CARDS WAS TAKEN WITHOUT HEARING. NET RESULT OF REGISTRATION AND APPEALS PROCESS IS THAT 5,374 PERSONS REMAIN ON ROLLS AFTER DELETION OF 31 BY REGISTRATION BOARD AND 93 BY COURT.

3. FRIENDS OF COMMONWEALTH WERE ENCOURAGED WHEN NEWLY FORMED COMMON-

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WEALTH PARTY WON ALL FOUR CONTESTED SEATS IN TINIAN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL ELECTION ON JUNE 8. VOTES FOR WINNERS RANGED FROM 144 TO 168, WHILE CLOSEST RUNNER-UP RECEIVED ONLY 81. LOWEST RANKING CANDIDATE WAS

OUTSPOKEN COVENANT FOE WHO APPEARED AT RECENT UNTC SESSION. NEW COUNCIL WILL APPARENTLY HAVE 5 TO 2 PRO-COVENANT MAJORITY.

4. REACTION TO UNTC SESSION APPEARS SUBDUED; SESSION WAS FOLLOWED WITH INTEREST BUT SPEECHES AND VOTING WILL PROBABLY NOT HAVE SUBSTANTIAL EFFECT ON OUTCOME OF PLEBISCITE. COVENANT SUPPORTERS ARE PLEASED WITH REPORTED POSITIONS OF UK, AUSTRALIAN AND FRENCH DELEGATES WHILE THEY DISCOUNT SOVIET POSITION AS PREDICTABLE. THERE IS

SOME CONCERN EVIDENT AS TO ABILITY OF SOVIET UNION ULTIMATELY TO BLOCK CHOSEN SOLUTION, BUT THIS NOT REPEAT NOT SEEN AS IMMEDIATE PROBLEM.

OPPONENTS OF COVENANT CAN BE EXPECTED TO NOTE WITH CARE SOVIET ARGUMENTS; AS WITH COVENANT SUPPORTERS, THEY LISTEN SELECTIVELY AND DISCOUNT "UNHELPFUL" STATEMENTS AS PREDICTABLE BIAS. SOLE EVIDENT USE OF UNTC SESSION TO DATE IS PUBLICATION IN COVENANT NEWSLETTER OF STATEMENTS GIVEN BEFORE COUNCIL BY JOE CRUZ, DR. PALACIOS, SENATOR TENORIO, SENATOR BORJA, AND MPSC CHAIRMAN PANGELINAN. LETTER FROM PANGELINAN TO TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL REBUTTING

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REMARKS BY SENATOR KENDALL ALSO REPRODUCED IN CURRENT COVENANT NEWSLETTER.

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5. OPPONENTS OF THE COVENANT USING FREE RADIO TIME DURING THE WEEK WERE OSCAR RASA, DINO JONES, DR. KAIPAT, AND PAZ YOUNIS; COVENANT SUPPORTERS USING THE FACILITY WERE BEN MONGLONA, JUAN DEMAPAN, JOAQUIN ATALIG (BROTHER OF THE FORMER CONGRESSMAN), AND JOE CRUZ. FREE TV TIME WAS USED BY JUAN DEMAPAN, PAZ YOUNIS, BERNADITA SEMAN, AND FELICIDAD OGUMORO (THE THREE WOMEN OPPOSED THE COVENANT). FRIENDS OF COMMONWEALTH ARE NOW MAKING SPOT PAID POLITICAL ANNOUNCEMENTS ON TELEVISION. ARGUMENTS AGAINST COVENANT INCLUDE SUPREMACY OF U.S. CONSTITUTION, LACK OF LOCAL JOB PREFERENCES, INADEQUATE COMPENSATION FOR LAND, U.S. RIGHT OF EMINENT DOMAIN, DANGERS ASSOCIATED WITH STORAGE OF NUCLEAR AND OTHER WEAPONS ON TINIAN, ABSENCE OF FINANCIAL GUARANTEES BEYOND SEVEN YEARS, LACK OF LOCAL CONTROL OVER IMMIGRATION, ALLEGED POSSIBILITY THAT CAROLINIANS WILL NOT BE ABLE TO HOLD LAND UNDER COVENANT, ABSENCE OF MINIMUM WAGE AND LACK OF SATISFACTION ON WAR CLAIMS. (LITTLE HAS BEEN HEARD OF LATTER THREE ARGUMENTS OF LATE.) ADDITIONALLY, OSCAR RASA HAS DECLARED THAT PLEBISCITE WILL NOT BE FAIR DUE TO FAILURE OF U.S. TO CHANGE BALLOT, ALLEGED BIAS OF PLEBISCITE COMMISSIONER, AND CONTROL

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OF APPEAL PROCESS BY U.S. -APPOINTED JUDGE.
6. PRESS COVERAGE DURING WEEK INCLUDED FACTUAL REPORTING IN PACIFIC DAILY NEWS (GUAM) OF COURT APPEALS ON VOTER CHALLENGES, TINIAN COUNCIL ELECTION, MNS RELEASES ABOUT UNTC SESSION AND OSCAR RASA'S RELEASE ALLEGING UNFAIR PLEBISCITE, MARIANAS VARIETY (SAIPAN) ON JUNE 6 REPORTED APPROACHING TINIAN ELECTION, SENATOR KENDALL'S UNTC REMARKS, RASA'S CHARGE CONCERNING THE PLEBISCITE, UNTC DECISION TO SEND VISITING MISSION AND REMARKS OF SOVIET DELEGATE. EDITORIAL COMMENT INCLUDES STATEMENT THAT TINIAN BASE OF INCREASING IMPORTANCE DUE TO "PULL OUT OF THE MILITARY FROM THAILAND, PHILIPPINES, JAPAN, AND OTHERS" AND SUGGESTION THAT U.S. MAY DECIDE TO USE MARIANAS TO "ACCOMMODATE" VN REFUGEES. MPSC'S COVENANT NEWSLETTER IS DEVOTED TO STATEMENTS AT UNTC. MICRONESIAN INDEPENDENT (MAJURO) CARRIED ARTICLE FROM FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW BY ROGER GALE (IDENTIFIED AS FORMER DIRECTOR OF FRIENDS OF MICRONESIA) AND ARTICLE BY JUDITH MILLER WHICH ORIGINALLY APPEARED IN THE PROGRESSIVE AND WAS PREVIOUSLY CARRIED IN MARIANAS VARIETY. KENDALL'S STATEMENT AND DECISION NOT TO

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CHANGE BALLOT ALSO REPORTED. JOHN ROSARIO'S ANTI-COVENANT COLUMN FAILED TO APPEAR AND THERE WERE NO POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENTS, FREE PRESS AND CHAMORRO LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER AGAIN FAILED TO APPEAR.

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7. NUMEROUS CARS ARE NOW SPORTING "VOTE YES COMMONWEALTH" STICKERS; LARGE "VOTE NO" AND "HELL NO" SIGNS APPEARED ALONG BEACH ROAD EVENING OF JUNE 10 AND MORNING JUNE 11. BERGESEN.

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