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DEPARTMENT OF STATE (A/00) MR

P 110625Z JUN 75
FM HICONTERPACIS 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 TIPI MARIANAS ISLANDS
RUEHDT /US MISSION TO UN NEW YORK NY

REVIEWED BY B.H. BAAS DATE 9/13/86

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FROM STATUS LNO 160
PASS TO DEPT INTERIOR FOR OMSB (ACTION) AND DOTA (INFO)
COMTWELVE FOR AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS
STATE FOR EA 10/UNP, L/UNA
DEFENSE FOR OSD/ISA
WHITE HOUSE FOR NSC
USUN FOR AMBASSADOR WHITE
PASS JUSTICE FOR MARCUSE (OLC)
E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDEV TQ

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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. THE 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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IN SIGN. OF 24 PERSONS CHALLENGED BY COURT... STRICKEN FROM ROLLS (ONE BECAUSE OF AGE)... DRAWN. ADDITIONALLY, COURT REJECTED ATTEMPT... PLACED BACK ON ROLLS AFTER REMOVAL BY VOTER REGISTRATION BOARD. COURT DECISION TO STRIKE 74 PERSONS HOLDING ALIEN REGISTRATION CARDS WAS TAKEN WITHOUT HEARING... REGISTRATION AND APPEALS PROCESS... BY REGIS-

...ENCOURAGED VICTIMELY FORMED COMMON-

...IN TIAN MUNICIPAL... VOTES... WINNERS RANGED FROM 144 TO 166... LOWEST RANKING CANDIDATE WA

...SPOKEN COVENANT... RECENT UNIC SESSION. NEW COUNCIL ALL APPARENTLY HAVE... COVENANT MAJORITY. REACTION TO UNIC 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.

OPONENTS 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 UNIC SESSION TO DATE IS PUBLICATION IN COVENANT NEWSLETTER OF STATEMENTS GIVEN BEFORE COUNCIL BY JOE CRUZ, DR. PALACIOS, SENATOR TENORIO, SENATOR BURJA, AND MPSC CHAIRMAN PANGELINAN. LETTER FROM PANGELINAN TO TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL REBUTTING

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REMARKS BY SENATOR KENDALL ALSO REPRODUCED IN CURRENT COVENANT NEWS-
LETTER.

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OPponents OF THE COVENANT USING FREE RADIO TIME DURING THE WEEK OF OSCAR RASA, DINO JONES, DR. KAIPAI, AND PAZ YOUNIS; COVENANT ADVOCATES USING THE FACILITY WERE BEN MONGLONA, JUAN DEMAPAN, ANTONIO AYALIG (BROTHER OF THE FORMER CONGRESSMAN), AND JOE CRUZ. MOST OF THE TIME WAS USED BY JUAN DEMAPAN, PAZ YOUNIS, BERNADITA SEMAN, AND ANTONIO AYALIG (THE THREE WOMEN OPPOSED THE COVENANT). THE COMMONWEALTH ARE NOW MAKING SPOT PAID POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENTS ON TELEVISION. ARGUMENTS AGAINST COVENANT INCLUDE VIOLATION OF U.S. CONSTITUTION, LACK OF LOCAL JOB PREFERENCES, LACK OF COMPENSATION FOR LAND, U.S. RIGHT OF EMINENT DOMAIN, DANGER ASSOCIATED WITH STORAGE OF NUCLEAR AND OTHER WEAPONS ON TINIAN, LACK 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 ABILITY TO FILE WAR CLAIMS. (LITTLE HAS BEEN HEARD OF LATTER THREE ARGUMENTS TO DATE.) ADDITIONALLY, OSCAR RASA HAS DECLARED THAT PLEBISCITE IS NOT BE FAIR DUE TO FAILURE OF U.S. TO CHANGE BALLOT, ALLEGED ABUSE OF PLEBISCITE COMMISSIONER, AND CONTROL

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OF APPEAL PROCESS BY U.S. SUPREME COURT.
6. PRESS COVERAGE DURING PERIOD OF LEGAL REPORTING IN PACIFIC DAILY NEWS (GUAM) OF COURT DECISIONS ON VOTER CHALLENGES, TINIAN COUNCIL ELECTION, MR. RELEASES ADDITIONAL 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 FORSEND VISITING MISSION AND REMARKS OF SOVIET DELEGATE. EDITORIAL COMMENT INCLUDES STATEMENT THAT TINIAN BASE OF INCREASING IMPORTANCE DUE TO SPILL OVER 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 UNCLASSIFIED

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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 CHANGERO LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER AGAIN FAILED TO APPEAR.

ALL INFORMATION UNCLAS.
NUMEROUS CARS ARE NOW SPORTING "VOTE YES COMMONWEALTH"
STICKER IN LARGE "VOTE NO" AND "HELL NO" SIGNS APPEARED ALONG
EACH ROAD EVENING OF JUNE 10 AND MORNING JUNE 11, BERGSEEN.

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