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 E.O. 11652: N/A
 TAGS: PDEV TO
 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 ON GUAM. OF 24 PERSONS CHALLENGED BY COVENANT SUPPORTERS, 19 WERE STRICKEN FROM ROLLS (ONE BECAUSE OF AGE). FIVE CHALLENGES WERE WITH-

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DRAWN. 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 HAS TAKEN WITHOUT HEARING. NET RESULT OF REGISTRATION AND APPEALS PROGRESS 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 COMMONWEALTH PARTY WON ALL FOUR CONTESTED SEATS IN TINIAN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL ELECTION ON JUNE 8. VOTES FOR WINNERS RANGED FROM 144 TO 100, WHILE CLOSEST RUNNER-UP RECEIVED ONLY 61. LOWEST RANKING CANDIDATE WAS OUTSPOKEN COVENANT FOR 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 REMARKS BY SENATOR KENDALL ALSO REPRODUCED IN CURRENT COVENANT NEWSLETTER.

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 DEHAPAN, JOAQUIN ATALIG (BROTHER OF THE FORMER CONGRESSMAN), AND JOE CRUZ. FREE TV TIME WAS USED BY JUAN DEHAPAN, 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

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TINIAN, ABSENCE OF FINANCIAL GUARANTEES BEYOND SEVEN YEARS, LACK OF LOCAL CONTROL OVER IMMIGRATION, ALLEGED POSSIBILITY THAT CAROLINIAN WILL NOT BE ABLE TO HOLD LAND UNDER COVENANT, ABSENCE OF MINIMUM MA AND LACK OF SATISFACTION ON HAR CLAIMS. (LITTLE HAS BEEN HEARD OF LATTER THREE ARGUMENTS OF LATE.) ADDITIONALLY, OSCAR RASA HAS DECLARED THAT PLEDISCITE WILL NOT BE FAIR DUE TO FAILURE OF U.S. TO CHANGE BALLOT, ALLEGED BIAS OF PLEDISCITE COMMISSIONER, AND CONC 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 PLEDISCITE, MARIANAS VARIETY (SAIPAN) ON JL 6 REPORTED APPROACHING TINIAN ELECTION, SENATOR KENDALL'S UNTC REMARKS, RASA'S CHARGE CONCERNING THE PLEDISCITE, UNTC DECISION TO TO SEND VISITING MISSION AND REMARKS OF SOVIET DELEGATE, EDITORIAL COMMENT INCLUDES STATEMENT THAT TINIAN CASE 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 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.

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, DERGENSEN.

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(PROCLAMATION FOR PLEBISCITE DAY)

SAIPAN, JUNE 11 (MNS)---DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER PETER T. COLEMAN HAS PROCLAIMED TUESDAY (JUNE 17, 1975) A PUBLIC HOLIDAY IN THE MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT. THE DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER, IN A PROCLAMATION RELEASED WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON (JUNE 11), PROCLAIMED THAT "ALL EMPLOYEES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS LOCATED IN THE MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT ARE GRANTED ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE IN OBSERVANCE OF PLEBISCITE DAY."

THE PROCLAMATION WAS MADE IN RECOGNITION OF THE HISTORIC IMPORTANCE OF THE ACT OF SELF-DETERMINATION OF THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANA ISLANDS ON JUNE 17, 1975, WHEN THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS WILL GO TO POLLS TO CAST THEIR BALLOTS ON WHETHER THEY APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE THE COMMONWEALTH COVENANT IN POLITICAL AFFILIATION WITH THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

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