

(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.

(UN VISITING MISSION WILL ARRIVE THURSDAY)

SAIPAN, JUNE 11 (MNS)---UNITED NATIONS REPRESENTATIVES TO OBSERVE THE MARIANAS PLEBISCITE ON JUNE 17 WILL ARRIVE ON SAIPAN THURSDAY (JUNE 12).

THE OBSERVERS ARE MEMBERS OF THE UN TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL WHICH VOTED LAST WEEK BY A MARGIN OF 4-1 TO SEND A VISITING MISSION TO THE MARIANAS. ONLY THE SOVIET UNION VOTED AGAINST THE RESOLUTION.

THE OBSERVERS ARE: JAMES MURRAY, UNITED KINGDOM, BERTRAND DELAITMILLADE, FRANCE, JOHN MELVISH, AUSTRALIA, GIPMA ABEBE, PRINCIPAL OFFICER, MS. NUEZA DEC. COSTA, MS. BEVERLY MALLISON, GEORGE ANDERSON, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER AND JAY KENNETH KATZEN, USUN ESCORT OFFICER.

THE MISSION WILL OBSERVE THE PLEBISCITE INCLUDING THE CAMPAIGN AND POLLING ARRANGEMENTS, THE CASTING OF BALLOTS, THE CLOSURE OF VOTING, THE COUNTING OF THE BALLOTS AND THE DECLARATION OF THE RESULTS.

AT THE SAME TIME, THEY INTEND TO OBTAIN FIRST HAND INFORMATION CONCERNING THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL

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DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT AND SUBMIT A REPORT ON ITS OBSERVATIONS TO THE TRUSTESHIP COUNCIL.

THE UN VISITING MISSION WILL MEET WITH THE PLEBISCITE COMMISSIONER, MR. ERWIN D. CANNAM ON FRIDAY, AS WELL AS THE MEMBERS OF THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION AND THE UNITED CAROLINIAN ASSOCIATION.

SATURDAY THEY WILL GO TO ROTA AND WILL ALSO VISIT TINIAN ON THE SAME DAY.

MONDAY (JUNE 16) THE MISSION WILL MEET WITH THE PLEBISCITE ADVISORY BOARD AND THE PLEBISCITE VOTER REGISTRATION BOARD, THE MARIANAS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS/GROUPS AND OR INDIVIDUALS.

THE GROUP WILL LEAVE SOMETIME NEXT WEEK AFTER TUESDAY'S PLEBISCITE.

(BURNETT RULED ON 93 VOTERS)

SAIPAN, JUNE 11 (MNS)---TRUST TERRITORY CHIEF JUSTICE HAROLD W. BURNETT RULED TUESDAY THAT THE 74 PERMANENT RESIDENTS OF GUAM WHO REGISTERED TO VOTE ON THE JUNE 17 PLEBISCITE CANNOT VOTE.

BURNETT ALSO RULED THAT ON OTHER 19 PEOPLE FROM OTHER DISTRICTS CANNOT VOTE BECAUSE THEY WERE NOT "DOMICILED" IN THE MARIANAS. ONCE OTHER MARIANAS RESIDENT WAS REMOVED FROM THE LIST BECAUSE HE IS NOT OF LEGAL AGE.

THE 74 PERMANENT RESIDENTS WHO REGISTERED TO VOTE WERE CHALLENGED BY ANTICOVENANT SPOKESMEN JESUS R. LISUA, MANUEL SONORANG AND ABEL R. OLOPAI, WHO CONTENDED THAT THEY CANNOT VOTE BECAUSE THEY ARE PERMANENT RESIDENTS OF GUAM AND NOT "DOMICILED" IN THE MARIANAS.

CONCERNING OLOPAI'S APPEAL, BURNETT STATED, "IT HAS NOT BEEN POSSIBLE FOR EITHER THE BOARD OR THIS COURT TO FULLY CONSIDER ALL RELEVANT FACTS BEARING ON THE RIGHT OF CHALLENGED VOTER REGISTRANTS. ERROR IS INEVITABLE; SOME WILL NOT VOTE WHO SHOULD NOT, AND OTHER MAY BE UNJUSTLY DEPRIVED OF THEIR FRANCHISE. IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT TIME AND EXPEDIENCY DICTATE THIS RULE."

REGARDING THE 18 REGISTRANTS WHO ALSO HAVE REGISTERED BUT ARE NOT DOMICILED IN THE MARIANAS, BURNETT DECLARED, "...I FIND IT MOST DIFFICULT TO ACCEPT THE CLAIM OF THOSE WHO HAVE COME TO THE MARIANAS, FROM OTHER DISTRICTS, TO RESIDE WITH FAMILY MEMBERS, WHO ARE HERE BY REASON OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT, THAT THEY RENOUNCED THEIR HOME ISLANDS AND ADOPTED SAIPAN AS THEIR DOMICILE. MY DOUBTS ARE GREATER AS TO THOSE WHO NOW REGISTER, FOR THE FIRST TIME, TO VOTE IN THE MARIANAS."

ACCORDING TO THE SECRETARIAL ORDER, THE JUDGE'S DECISION IS FINAL AND NOT SUBJECT TO REVIEW BY ANY U.S. OR TRUST TERRITORY AUTHORITY.

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