

6/13/75

CNTC 651
Murray

JUN 13 1975

(MISSION PLEDGES TO HEAR ALL VIEWS)

SAIPAN, JUNE 13 (MNS)---THE CHAIRMAN OF THE UNITED NATIONS VISITING MISSION TO OBSERVE THE JUNE 17 PLEBISCITE IN THE MARIANAS DISTRICT, JAMES MURRAY OF THE UNITED KINGDOM, HAS SAID THAT THE MISSION WILL BE HEARING THE POINTS OF VIEWS OF ALL CONCERNED REGARDING THE IMPORTANT EVENT WHICH IS TO TAKE PLACE NEXT TUESDAY IN THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. THE VISITING MISSION CONSISTING OF TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES JOHN MELHUISH FROM AUSTRALIA, BERTRAND DE LATAILLADE OF FRANCE AND AMBASSADOR MURRAY AND THEIR STAFF--ARRIVED SAIPAN LATE THURSDAY AFTERNOON (JUNE 12).

IN A PUBLIC STATEMENT RELEASED ON SAIPAN FRIDAY (JUNE 13), CHAIRMAN OF THE UN VISITING MISSION JAMES MURRAY SAID THAT "WE MUST LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING THE POINTS OF VIEW OF ALL CONCERNED REGARDING THE IMPORTANT EVENT WHICH IS TO TAKE PLACE NEXT TUESDAY IN THE NORTHERN MARIANAS." THE VISITING MISSION WILL BE MEETING WITH THE PLEBISCITE COMMISSIONER, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COMMISSION, THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION, AND THE UNITED CAROLINIAN ASSOCIATION, AND HAS SET ASIDE SPECIAL TIMES TO MEET ALL OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES. "WE REALIZE, HOWEVER, THAT THERE MAY BE GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS WHO MAY FEEL THEIR VIEWS MAY NOT BE ADEQUATELY REPRESENTED BY THE FOREGOING ORGANIZATIONS," CHAIRMAN MURRAY ADDED.

THE VISITING MISSION--PRESENTLY STAYING AT THE SAIPAN'S CONTINENTAL HOTEL--WILL BE TRAVELING TO ROTA AND TINIAN SATURDAY (JUNE 14) TO SEE HOW CAMPAIGNS IN THE PUBLIC MEETINGS HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED. THE CHAIRMAN EMPHASIZED IN HIS STATEMENT THAT THE MISSION WOULD HOPE TO ENSURE THAT ANY GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL WHO WISHES TO EXPRESS VIEWS HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO SO.

THE VISITING MISSION WILL BE IN THE MARIANAS DISTRICT BEYOND JUNE 17, WHEN THE PEOPLE OF THE DISTRICT WILL GO TO POLLS TO CAST THEIR BALLOTS ON WHETHER THEY APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE THE COMMONWEALTH COVENANT IN POLITICAL

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