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DRAFT:JKK Katzen:lav 6/19/75

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TO: SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
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C O N F I D E N T I A L

FROM STATUS LNO 171C

PASS TO DEPT INTERIOR FOR OMSN AND DOTA
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 COMTWELVE FOR AMB WILLIAMS
 STATE FOR EA, IO/UNP, L/UNA
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 WHITE HOUSE FOR NSC
 CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNTC PDEV PINT TQ

SUBJECT: VISIT OF UNTC MISSION TO MARIANAS
 FROM USUN ESCORT OFFICER KATZEN

1. (C) SUMMARY: UN VISITING MISSION TO OBSERVE PLEBISCITE IN NORTHERN MARIANAS DISTRICT HAS GONE SMOOTHLY. MURRAY (UK/CHAIRMAN), MELHUSH (AUSTRALIA), AND DE LATAILLADE (FRANCE) HAVE TREATED THEIR ASSIGNMENT SERIOUSLY--NOT WITHOUT AN AIR OF FORMALITY AND SELF-IMPORTANCE VIEWED AS PROBABLY UNWARRANTED BY MANY LOCAL OBSERVERS. SCHEDULE ARRANGED WAS EXCELLENT, AND MISSION WAS MOST IMPRESSED WITH PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION OF OBVIOUSLY FREE PLEBISCITE, AND LEVEL OF POLITICAL EDUCATION. IRONICALLY, UN MISSION MEMBERS SOMETIMES SEEMED FRUSTRATED WITH HOW VERY WELL PLANNING AND PARTICIPATION PROCEEDED, AND OCCASIONALLY CHOSE PERIPHERAL MATTERS ON WHICH TO COMMENT ADVERSELY. WE EXPECT THESE ELEMENTS TO BE REFLECTED IN THEIR REPORT, WHICH CURRENTLY IS IN PREPARATION.

END SUMMARY.

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 ON JUL 10 1985 UNDER PRO-
 VISIONS OF E.O. 12856 BY
 ERIC D. BOLLAN, USN
 SPECIAL ASSISTANT, OMSN

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2. (C) UN VISITORS MET JUNE 13 WITH PLEBISCITE COMMISSIONER CANHAM AND STAFF, MPSC, AND UNITED CAROLINIAN ASSOCIATION. GROUP TRAVELED TO ROTA AND TINIAN FOLLOWING DAY. JUNE 16, VISITORS MET WITH PLEBISCITE ADVISORY COMMITTEE, PLEBISCITE VOTER REGISTRATION BOARD, MARIANAS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE, AND SAIPAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION. ON PLEBISCITE DAY, MISSION VISITED SAIPAN'S ELEVEN ELECTORAL DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES, AND OBSERVED COUNTING OF BALLOTS AT COURT BUILDING. ONE MISSION MEMBER WITNESSED PLEBISCITE PROCEEDINGS ON TINIAN. ECONOMIC BRIEFINGS WAS GIVEN JUNE 18.

3. (C) MISSION MEMBERS WERE FULLY EXPOSED TO ALL POINTS OF VIEW, ENCOURAGED THE EXPRESSION OF DIVERSE OPINIONS AT EACH MEETING, AND ATTENDED POLITICAL RALLIES NIGHTLY. AT TIMES, GROUP APPEARED TO BE BENDING OVER BACKWARD TO FOSTER DISSENSION, AND MEMBERS CLEARLY WERE MORE FASCINATED WITH CAROLINIAN AND YOUNG OPPONENTS OF COVENANT THAN THEY WERE BY PANGELINAN, ET AL. WHEN LITERALLY NO PRIVATE PETITIONERS CALLED ON MISSION AT HOTEL, DESPITE MISSION'S PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF HOURS DURING WHICH IT WAS PREPARED TO RECEIVE THEM, MISSION FELT THAT VENUE (CONTINENTAL HOTEL) WAS INTIMIDATING. LEADERS OF OPPOSITION ASSURED MISSION, HOWEVER, THAT THIS WAS NOT THE CASE AND THAT WHEN THEY WISHED TO CALL ON MISSION, THEY WOULD. (IN FACT, THEY DID NOT CALL ON MISSION, AND OSCAR RASA HAS MADE HIMSELF VIRTUALLY INVISIBLE TO UN GROUP.)

4. (C) AT SEVERAL REPRISSES, CHAIRMAN MURRAY (ALSO PRESIDENT OF TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL) SAID PUBLICALLY THAT MARIANANS OF BOTH PERSUASIONS APPEARED "DISAPPOINTED" WITH MISSION, AND HAD WONDERED WHY IT HAD COME. PROCOVENANT

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FORCES, ARGUED MURRAY, ASKED THE MISSION TO URGE THE U.S. CONGRESS TO APPROVE THE RESULT OF THE PLEBISCITE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE; ANTICOVENANT LEADERS APPEALED FOR THE PLEBISCITE TO BE DELAYED. THE MISSION COULD DO NEITHER, MURRAY EXPLAINED, CONCLUDING THAT THE PEOPLE HAD TO UNDERSTAND THAT SUCH MEASURES WERE NOT WITHIN THE MANDATE OF THE MISSION.

5. (C) KEY FACTORS IN OVERALL FAVORABLE IMPRESSION MADE ON VISITORS WERE ACUTE POLITICAL AWARENESS OF THE MARIANANS THEMSELVES, AND CANHAM AND HIS ORGANIZATION OF PLEBISCITE. AT SAME TIME AS GROUP WAS IMPRESSED BY POLITICAL AWARENESS, HOWEVER, FRENCH MEMBER CHALLENGED NECESSITY TO HOLD PLEBISCITE "SO SOON" AFTER COVENANT AGREED TO, AND BEFORE REFERENDUM. EXPLANATION BY HICOM DID NOT COMPLETELY DISABUSE HIM. FURTHER, BOTH MURRAY AND DE LATAILLADE UNFORTUNATELY EXAGGERATED DEGREE OF FRICTION EXISTING BETWEEN CHAMORRO AND CAROLINIAN COMMUNITIES. MURRAY LIKENING HIS CONCERN TO THAT REGARDING NORTHERN IRELAND. DE LATAILLADE FELL PREY TO MOST CAROLINIAN ARGUMENTS, INCLUDING THAT REGARDING ABSENCE OF CAROLINIAN TRANSLATION OF ALL POLITICAL EDUCATION DOCUMENTS. THERE IS MORE THAN A BIT OF IRONY IN THIS, SINCE VERY SAME REPS ARE LIKELY, ON BASIS OF SOPHISTICATION WHICH THEY NOTED AMONG MARIANAN VOTERS, TO CHALLENGE US AT NEXT TC SESSION, SHOULD WE DEFEND SLOW MOTION TOWARD SELF-DETERMINATION IN OTHER DISTRICTS AS BEING OCCASIONED BY MICRONESIAN INDECISION.

6. (C) ALTHOUGH MISSION TRIED TO MAKE OF PLEBISCITE SIMPLY A CONTEST OF CHAMORRO VERSUS CAROLINIAN, AND ELDERS VERSUS YOUTH, RESULTS OF PLEBISCITE, PARTICULARLY IN SAIPAN'S 8TH DISTRICT, WHERE 59 PERCENT OF POPULATION VOTED FOR COVENANT IN DISTRICT WHERE IT IS ESTIMATED CAROLINIANS

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OUTNUMBER CHAMORROS TWO TO ONE, AND ON TINIAN, WHERE VOCAL YOUTH WERE DEFEATED BADLY, SHOWED MISSION THAT PROBLEM WAS AT LEAST SOMEWHAT MORE COMPLICATED.

7. (C) INCIDENTS OCCASIONALLY CROPPED UP, BUT WERE QUIETLY PUT TO REST, OR REMEDIED. FRENCH MEMBER CRITICIZED ATTENTION DEVOTED TO TOURISM ON SAIPAN, AND EXTRAVAGANCE OF HOTEL LODGING. WHEN A MISSION MOVE TO A MORE MODEST HOTEL WAS SUGGESTED, HE POLITELY DECLINED. THE MISSION CHOSE TO ANNOUNCE PUBLICALLY THE TC'S DISASSOCIATION FROM THE LANGUAGE OF THE "NO" OPTION ON THE BALLOT. THEY BELIEVED THIS WAS NECESSARY TO CORRECT IMPRESSION GIVEN ON PAGE FIVE OF CANHAM'S QUESTION AND ANSWER BOOKLET. CANHAM AGREED GRACIOUSLY. MISSION FELT VIEWS OF CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA HAD TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCCOUNT, AND SENT MESSAGES INVITING ITS LEADERS TO CONSULT. THE CONGRESSMEN DID NOT CHOOSE TO DO SO. MISSION COMMENTED THAT TIME FOR REGISTRATION WAS TOO SHORT. YET, EXTRAORDINARILY HIGH VOTER REGISTRATION, AND CANHAM'S CONVICTION THAT LENGTHIER PERIOD WOULD NOT NECESSARILY HAVE MEANT MORE REGISTERED VOTERS, IMPRESSED THEM. "YES" AND "NO" CAMPAIGN SIGNS WERE OBSERVED WITHIN 100 FEET OF ONE POLLING PLACE. THEY WERE COVERED UP. FRENCH REP REGRETTED ABSENCE OF I.D. CARDS TO IDENTIFY REGISTERED VOTERS. MURRAY DISAGREED.

8. (C) IN CONCLUSION, MISSION WAS SATISFIED WITH ITS STAY, AND WITH FAIRNESS OF PLEBISCITE AND ITS RELATED ACTIVITIES. THEY WERE CLEARLY CHARMED BY BEAUTY OF ISLANDS AND WARMTH OF PEOPLE. VISITORS DID HAVE SOME RESERVATIONS, ALONG LINES NOTED ABOVE, WHICH WILL BE REFLECTED IN THEIR

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REPORT, BUT THEY PROBABLY WILL NOT BE MAJOR. SEVERAL COMMENTS MAY BE MADE OVER MECHANICAL PROBLEMS CONNECTED WITH PLEBISCITE, INCLUDING DISQUALIFICATIONS. AN APPEAL PROBABLY WILL BE MADE FOR U.S. IN FUTURE ARRANGEMENT, TO GIVE FULL CONSIDERATION TO WISHES OF CAROLINIANS AND YOUTH. AND, IF FRENCH HAVE WAY, LINGERING CRITICISM WILL BE INCORPORATED OVER DETACHMENT OF MARIANAS, ACQUISITION OF LAND ON TINIAN FOR MILITARY PURPOSES, AND DATE OF PLEBISCITE.

9. (C) AS EVIDENCED ELSEWHERE, UN SECRETARIAT WAS OVERSTAFFED FOR MISSION. FOUR MEMBERS, WITH ATTENDANT EXPENSES, HARDLY WERE NECESSARY TO SERVICE THREE MISSION PRINCIPALS.

10. (C) MURRAY AND MELHUIH PROCEEDING TO NEW YORK TO COMPLETE REPORT "BY JUNE 30."

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