

(WAS REFERENDUM RESULTS)

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SAIPAN, JULY 9 (MNS)---ABOUT FIVE PERCENT OF THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANA ISLANDS CAST THEIR BALLOTS IN THE MICRONESIA-WIDE REFERENDUM, HELD JULY 8TH. THERE ARE NO RESULTS YET FROM THE OTHER DISTRICTS. HOWEVER, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS SAID THAT THE TURNOUT IN THE REFERENDUM THROUGHOUT MICRONESIA WAS "GENERALLY LOW."

THE REFERENDUM WAS HELD "TO ASCERTAIN THE WISHES OF THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA WITH RESPECT TO THEIR FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS CHOICE, THE UNITY OF MICRONESIA AND THE ROLE OF THE CONGRESS AS A NEGOTIATING AGENCY ON BEHALF OF THE MICRONESIAN PEOPLE."

THE REFERENDUM WAS CONDUCTED DESPITE OPPOSITION FROM PONAPE, PALAU, TRUK, THE MARIANAS AND MARSHALLS DISTRICT TO HOLDING THE REFERENDUM UNTIL THE PEOPLE ARE ADEQUATELY EDUCATED ON STATUS ALTERNATIVES.

THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA WHICH CONCLUDED ITS 10-DAY SPECIAL SESSION LAST WEEK FAILED TO PASS A BILL INTRODUCED BY PALAU SENATOR ROMAN IMETUCKL TO DELAY THE REFERENDUM.

IN THE MARIANAS, SEVERAL POLITICAL LEADERS APPEARED ON RADIO AND TELEVISION URGING PEOPLE NOT TO VOTE. ABOUT 78 PERCENT OF THE VOTERS IN THE MARIANAS VOTED IN FAVOR OF A CLOSER AND PERMANENT POLITICAL UNION WITH THE UNITED STATES UNDER A COMMONWEALTH FORM OF GOVERNMENT IN THE JUNE 17 PLEBISCITE.

OUT OF 5,815 ELIGIBLE VOTERS IN THE MARIANAS DISTRICT, ONLY 286 CAST THEIR BALLOTS.

ON SAIPAN, OUT OF 4917 ELIGIBLE VOTERS, 271 VOTED. TINIAN HAS 327 ELIGIBLE VOTERS AND ONLY SEVEN CAST THEIR BALLOTS. ROTA, OUT OF 571 ELIGIBLE VOTERS, 10 PEOPLE VOTED.

THE UNOFFICIAL BREAKDOWN IS AS FOLLOWS: U.S. COMMONWEALTH, 49 VOTED IN FAVOR, 20 AGAINST; PRESENT STATUS, 27 FOR, 17 AGAINST; FREE ASSOCIATION, 26 IN FAVOR, 16 AGAINST; STATEHOOD, 11 FOR IT, 16 AGAINST; INDEPENDENCE, 8 VOTED FOR AND 21 AGAINST; WHILE TWO PEOPLE WROTE DOWN "COMMUNIST" ON THE BALLOTS.

CONCERNING MICRONESIAN UNITY, 71 VOTED YES, 22 AGAINST. WHETHER THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA SHOULD CONTINUE TO NEGOTIATE A NEW STATUS ON BEHALF OF ALL THE DISTRICTS, 130 VOTED FOR IT, 15 VOTED AGAINST.

RESULTS FROM THE OTHER DISTRICTS WILL BE PUBLISHED AS SOON AS RECEIVED.

(SECRET DOD LETTER TO INTERIOR ON SURTAX EXEMPTIONS MADE PUBLIC)

SAIPAN, JULY 9 (MNS)---A CONFIDENTIAL LETTER FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (DOD) TO THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR URGED A SECRETARIAL ORDER "AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE" TO PROHIBIT THE LEVYING OF ADDITIONAL TAXES ON FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ON KWAJALEIN--A U.S. MILITARY SITE IN THE MARSHALL ISLANDS, ACCORDING TO WEDNESDAY'S PACIFIC DAILY NEWS.

THE LETTER WAS WRITTEN MAY 22 BY AMOS A. JORDAN, ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, TO ROYSTON C. HUGHES, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, AFTER THE MARSHALLS DISTRICT NITIJELA (LEGISLATURE) ENACTED LEGISLATION TO RAISE BY ONE PERCENT TAXES ON WAGES, SALARIES AND GROSS REVENUES IN THE MARSHALLS, PDN STATED.

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