



Department of State

TELEGRAM

UNCLASSIFIED

Dec 24 1975

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RECSTATE PASS TO DEPT INT/SEC INTERIOR/DOIA OSN  
EMBASSY CANBERRA FOR PAC. ISL. MONTHLY  
(DISTAD ADA VEToes CONCON BILL, SIGNS MORTGAGE LAW)  
SAIPAN, DEC. 24 (HNS) --- MARIANAS DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR  
FRANCISCO C. ADA HAS VETOOED A BILL CALLING FOR A CONSTITUTIONAL  
CONVENTION FOR THE MARIANAS DISTRICT UNTIL THE FATE OF THE  
COVENANT IN THE U.S. SENATE IS KNOWN. THE DISTAD TOOK  
ACTION ON THE BILL TUESDAY (DEC. 23).  
SAYING THAT IT "MAY BE TOO PRESUMPTUOUS IN VIEW OF THE  
FACT" THAT THE COVENANT HAS NOT BEEN APPROVED YET BY THE

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SENATE, ADA SAID IT WOULD BE "MORE ADVANTAGEOUS" TO DEFER  
ACTION AT THIS TIME. "I FEEL THAT PROVISIONS OF THIS  
ACT, WHILE LEGALLY AND SUBSTANTIVELY CORRECT, MAY BE MORE  
APPROPRIATE AFTER THE COVENANT IS ULTIMATELY PASSED."  
ADA ALSO NOTED THAT FUNDS TO PREPARE FOR AND CONDUCT  
THE ELECTION OF DELEGATES HAVE NOT BEEN PROVIDED FOR  
UNDER THE ACT. IF THE BILL IS TO BECOME LAW, ADA STATED  
IN A LETTER, THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD BE REQUIRED TO CONDUCT  
A MASSIVE POLITICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM TO ACQUAINT THE PEOPLE  
ON THE IMPLICATIONS INVOLVED. "WE CANNOT COMMIT FUNDS FOR  
WHICH WE HAVE NOT BEEN GIVEN APPROPRIATIONS," ADA'S LETTER  
READS.

ANOTHER CONCERN ADA POINTED OUT WAS THE NUMBER OF  
DELEGATES AT-LARGE WHICH HE (ADA) WAS GIVEN THE POWER TO  
APPOINT. ADA SAID HE WOULD "PREFER" THAT THE FIVE SUCH  
DELEGATES BE ELECTED BY THE PEOPLE UNLESS SUCH APPOINTMENTS  
WERE TO BE FROM A SPECIFIC ASSOCIATION, ETHNIC GROUP OR  
CIVIC ORGANIZATION.

DISTAD ADA SIGNED A BILL TO ESTABLISH A REAL ESTATE  
MORTGAGE LAW. THE BILL WILL "INDUCE LENDERS TO MAKE SECURED

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