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ACTION

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JUN 75 ACTION.....STATUS LNO

VZCZC GSA039

OSTUZYUW RUEAMAF0893 1681940-UUUU--RUMGSA.

DE RUEHC #1539 1681940

ZNR UUUUU

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO RUMGSA/HICOMTER PACIS IMMEDIATE

INFO RUEKDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 3077

RUMKQA/CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

RUMNSAA/CINCPACREP GUAM IMMEDIATE

BT

UNCLAS STATE 141539

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, TQ

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS' COMMENTS ON MARIANAS PLEBISCITE

PASS STATUS LNO

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STATEMENT TO THE PRESS BY AMBASSADOR F. HAYDN WILLIAMS, THE PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS, ON THE RESULTS OF THE PLEBISCITE IN THE NORTHERN MARIANAS:

I AM NATURALLY PLEASED THAT THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS HAVE IN A FREE EXERCISE OF THEIR RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION VOTED OVERWHELMINGLY IN FAVOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH COVENANT AND POLITICAL UNION WITH THE UNITED STATES. THIS POPULAR EXPRESSION OF SUPPORT FOR AND ENDORSEMENT OF THE WORK OF THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION AND THE MARIANAS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE MUST BE MOST GRATIFYING TO THOSE IN THE MARIANAS WHO HAVE LABORED LONG AND HARD FOR A NEW POLITICAL STATUS FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. I SEND TO THEM MY CONGRATULATIONS FOR A JOB WELL DONE.

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THOSE OF US ON THE AMERICAN SIDE WHO HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF PARTICIPATING IN THE NEGOTIATIONS LEADING TO THE SIGNING OF THE COVENANT ALSO TAKE PLEASURE IN KNOWING THAT OUR EFFORTS COMBINED WITH THOSE OF THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION HAVE STOOD THE TEST OF PUBLIC EXAMINATION AND DEBATE AND THE FREE BALLOT BOX. WITH REGARD TO THE LATTER, I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK THE PLEBISCITE COMMISSIONER, MR. ERWIN CANHAM, AND HIS STAFF FOR THE ESSENTIAL ROLE THEY PLAYED IN THE BASIC PLANNING AND ADMINISTERING OF THE PLEBISCITE AND FOR THE WISDOM, UNDERSTANDING AND INTEGRITY THEY BROUGHT TO BEAR ON THIS PROCESS.

MOST OF ALL, I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY TO THANK ALL OF THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS FOR ALL THE COURTESIES AND KINDNESSES THEY HAVE SHOWN ME AND THE MEMBERS OF MY DELEGATION DURING EVERY PHASE OF THE STATUS TALKS AND ON MANY PUBLIC OCCASIONS. I WISH ALL OF THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS SUCCESS AS THEY NOW JOIN IN COMMON TASKS FOR THE COMMON GOOD, TASKS DESIGNED TO FURTHER THE WELL BEING OF ALL OF THE CITIZENS OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS AS THEY PLAN FOR THE YEARS AHEAD.

KISSINGER

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