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SLESTATE PASS TO DEPT INT/SEC INTERIOR/DOIA OSN
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA FOR PAC. ISL. MONTHLY
(MARIANAS VOTERS APPROVE COMMONWEALTH)

SAIPAN, JUNE 18 (MNS)---BY A VOTE OF 3,648 TO 1,002
THE VOTERS OF THE MARIANAS DISTRICT APPROVED THE COVENANT
WHICH WOULD SET UP THE PROPOSED U.S. COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANAS. THE PLEBISCITE WHICH WAS HELD ON JUNE
17 WAS OBSERVED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED NATIONS
TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL HEADED BY MR. JAMES MURRAY OF THE

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UNITED KINGDOM.

MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION CHAIRMAN EDWARD
PANGELINAN SAID "PERSONALLY, I'M VERY EXCITED AND I'M
PLEASED WITH THIS EXPRESSION OF THE PEOPLE. WE HAVE BEEN
TRYING TO EXPRESS OUR DESIRE TO BECOME A PART OF THE UNITED
STATES FOR THE PAST 20 YEARS AND, AFTER SPENDING TWO AND A
HALF YEARS OF NEGOTIATIONS, THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS, IN
A FREE ELECTION, HAVE EXERCISED THEIR INALIENABLE RIGHT OF
SELF-DETERMINATION AND HAVE DECIDED THEIR FUTURE POLITICAL
STATUS--THAT IS TO APPROVE THE COVENANT TO ESTABLISH THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS IN POLITICAL UNION
WITH THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

"I BELIEVE THAT THE PEOPLE HAVE SPOKEN AND I'M VERY
PLEASED WITH THE RESULT OF TODAY'S ELECTION. I WOULD ALSO
LIKE TO ADD THAT THE PLEBISCITE HAS BEEN CONDUCTED IN A
FAIR AND ORDERLY MANNER. WE HAVE THE PRESIDENT'S
REPRESENTATIVES WHO CONDUCTED THE PLEBISCITE AND I BELIEVE
THAT EVERYBODY HAS BEEN GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS
THEIR OPINIONS. THE UNITED NATIONS VISITING MISSION IS
HERE TO OBSERVE THE CONDUCT OF THE PLEBISCITE AND I

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BELIEVE, IN GENERAL, THAT THE PLEBISCITE HAS BEEN CONDUCTED
IN A MOST DEMOCRATIC, MOST ORDERLY FASHION THAT YOU CAN
FIND ANY PLACE IN THE 11 TRUST TERRITORY OF THE UNITED
NATIONS. "I WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE THE PEOPLE FOR

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IN A MOST PLACE
AND ANY PLACE
ATIONS. "I WOULD

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GOING OUT TO VOTE ON THIS VERY IMPORTANT AND VERY HISTORIC OCCASION AND I CONGRATULATE THOSE INDIVIDUALS WHO SUPPORTED THE COVENANT. THOSE WHO OPPOSED THE COVENANT I ALSO EXTEND MY PERSONAL CONGRATULATIONS FOR EXPRESSING THEIR VIEWS IN THIS VERY IMPORTANT OCCASION. I BELIEVE NOW THAT IT IS TIME TO WORK TOGETHER--BOTH THOSE WHO OPPOSED IT AND THOSE WHO SUPPORTED IT--AND TO WORK FOR A BETTER COMMONWEALTH FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS. I HOPE THAT THIS IS THE TURNING POINT OF THE POLITICAL STATUS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS. I HOPE THAT EVERYBODY IN THE MARIANAS WILL WORK TOGETHER AS ONE UNITED PEOPLE AND I EXTEND MY PERSONAL CONGRATULATION TO ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS FOR EXPRESSING THEIR VIEWS IN THIS HISTORIC PLEBISCITE FOR THE MARIANAS ON JUNE 17."

JOE CRUZ, MEMBER OF THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION SAID "I THINK THE RESULT OF THE PLEBISCITE TODAY

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IS JUST GREAT. WE'VE WAITED FOR 21 YEARS FOR THIS VERY SPECIAL MOMENT. IT'S REJOICE AND JUBILEE TO ALL THE PEOPLE WHO WORK HARD FOR THIS GOAL. I ONLY REGRET THAT SOME OF THE PEOPLE WHO ASPIRED FOR THIS HAVE PASSED AWAY BUT I AM HAPPY FOR THEIR CHILDREN AND THEIR CHILDREN'S CHILDREN. I WANT TO CONGRATULATE THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS FOR A VERY FINE DECISION AND I'M SURE THEY WILL NOT REGRET THIS DECISION THAT WE MADE TODAY. I WANT TO THANK EVERYBODY WHO WERE INVOLVED IN THE ELECTION, INCLUDING THE PLEBISCITE COMMISSIONER, FOR A VERY FAIR DECISION."

PLEBISCITE COMMISSIONER MR. ERWIN CANHAM SAID "I'M VERY GRATEFUL THAT THE VOTING TODAY WAS CONDUCTED IN SUCH A GOOD SPIRIT. THERE WERE NO DISORDERS OF ANY KIND THAT I KNEW ABOUT. THERE WERE VERY FEW DISPUTES ABOUT PEOPLE WHO WANTED TO VOTE AND COULDN'T. ONLY EIGHT CASES CAME TO MY ATTENTION, FOUR OF THEM WERE ABLE TO VOTE AND FOUR OTHERS HADN'T BEEN REGISTERED AND SO WE COULDN'T PERMIT THEM TO VOTE. I THINK THAT THE ACTUAL OPERATIONS WERE VERY SATISFACTORY AND AS PLEBISCITE COMMISSIONER I'M PARTICULARLY GREATFUL TO THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS FOR THE SPIRIT IN WHICH THEY

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CONDUCTED TODAY'S VOTING. IF I MAY SO, THE RESULT IS SO
DECISIVE THAT THIS IS A CLEAR MANDATE OF PUBLIC OPINION."
(WILLIAMS COMMENT ON PLEBISCITE)

SAIPAN, JUNE 18 (MNS)---THE FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF THE STATEMENT
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.

"THOSE OF US ON THE AMERICAN SIDE WHO HAD THE PRIVILEGE
OF PARTICIPATING IN THE NEGOTIATIONS LEADING TO THE SIGNING

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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



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