The following is text of 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 over-
whelmingly 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 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 the citizens of the Northern Mariana Islands as they plan for the
years ahead.