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TAGS: PFOR, TO

SUBJECT: SENATOR FONG'S STATEMENT ON MARIANAS PLEBISCITE
VOTE

FOR STATUS LNO AND MNS

IN STATEMENT ON SENATE FLOOR JUNE 24 SENATOR HIRAM FONG (R-HAWAII) REVIEWED THE STATISTICS IN THE FINAL REPORT OF PLEBISCITE COMMISSIONER ERWIN CANHAM AND NOTED THAT 78.8 PER CENT OF VALID VOTES CAST APPROVED THE COMMONWEALTH COVENANT AND THAT MORE THAN 93 PER CENT OF THE REGISTERED VOTERS HAD CAST THEIR BALLOTS.

SENATOR FONG SAID:

QUOTE: THESE ARE HIGHLY GRATIFYING FIGURES. THEY DEMONSTRATE THAT THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS WHOLEHEARTEDLY PARTICIPATED IN THE PLEBISCITE AND FREELY CHOSE A CLOSE POLITICAL UNION WITH THE UNITED STATES. THE FACT THAT THE BALLOTING WAS OBSERVED BY THE UNITED NATIONS REPRESENTATIVES

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AND FOLLOWED A FAIR AND IMPARTIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM ADDS MUCH SIGNIFICANCE TO THE ACT OF SELF-DETERMINATION BY THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS.

I CONGRATULATE THE PEOPLE FOR THEIR STRONG VOTE. IT CONFIRMS THE SENTIMENT I FOUND IN SAIPAN DURING MY VISIT TO THE TRUST TERRITORY LAST FALL. I EXTEND MY WARMEST ALOHA TO THE MARIANAS PEOPLE, WHO HAVE OPTED SO STRONGLY FOR CLOSER TIES WITH THE UNITED STATES AND FOR AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP. END QUOTE.

SENATOR FONG INSERTED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD THE TEXTS OF MESSAGES SENT TO THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS BY THE PRESIDENT, SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR HATHAWAY, AND AMBASSADOR F. HAYDN WILLIAMS, THE PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS.

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