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PRELIMINARY DRAFT - Mrs Van Cleve

DRAFT 11-28-66

A B I L L

To establish a Commission on the Status of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, because the people of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, through their elected representatives in the Congress of Micronesia, have expressed a desire to have established a commission to consider the future political status of the Trust Territory, the Congress of the United States hereby establishes the Commission on the Status of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

Declaration of Purpose

SEC. 2. The Congress of Micronesia, noting its view that this generation of Micronesians should have an early opportunity to determine the future constitutional and political status of Micronesia, resolved in August 1966 that a commission be established in order to consult the people of Micronesia so as to ascertain their wishes and views, and in order to study and assess critically the political alternatives open to Micronesia. The Congress of the United States, noting the responsibilities of the Government of the United States to the people of Micronesia under the Trusteeship Agreement between the United States and the Security Council of the United Nations, concurs in such views and believes that a commission comprised of representatives of the Congress of Micronesia and of the Government of the United States can effectively undertake such consultation and assessment.

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Commission on the Status of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands

SEC. 3. The Commission on the Status of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (hereinafter referred to as the "Commission"), shall be composed of seventeen members, as follows:

(a) Three members of the Senate of the United States Congress, of whom no more than two shall be of the same political party, to be appointed by the President of such Senate;

(b) Three members of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress, of whom no more than two shall be of the same political party, to be appointed by the Speaker of such House of Representatives;

(c) Three members of the Senate of the Congress of Micronesia, to be appointed by the President of such Senate;

(d) Three members of the House of Representatives of the <sup>President.</sup> Congress of Micronesia, to be appointed by the Speaker of such House of Representatives;

(e) Three representatives of the Executive Branch of the United States Government, to be appointed by the President; and

(f) Two members of the general public, to be appointed by the President.

SEC. 4. (a) The Commission shall, by majority vote, elect a chairman from among its members.

(b) Any vacancy which may occur on the Commission shall not affect its powers or functions, but shall be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made.

(c) The organization meeting of the Commission shall be held no later than 60 days from the date of enactment of this Act, at such time and place as may be specified in a call issued jointly by the senior member appointed

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by the President of the Senate and the senior member appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

(d) Nine members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum, but a smaller number, as determined by the Commission, may conduct hearings.

(e) Members who are members of Congress or who are representatives of the Executive Branch shall serve without additional compensation. The members of the Commission who are members of the Congress of Micronesia and the members selected from the general public shall each receive \$50 per diem when engaged in the actual performance of duties vested in the Commission. All members of the Commission shall receive reimbursement for travel, subsistence, and other necessary expenses incurred by them in the performance of such duties.

Duties of the Commission

SEC. 5. The Commission shall

(a) assess critically the alternatives as to political status open to the people of Micronesia;

(b) inform the people of Micronesia, to the fullest extent feasible, of such alternatives;

(c) consult with the people of Micronesia, to the fullest extent feasible, so as to ascertain their wishes and views;

(d) formulate recommendations as to the future political status of the Trust Territory and the procedure required to achieve that status; and

(e) submit a report containing such recommendations to the President of the United States, the Congress of the United States, and the Congress of Micronesia, no later than December 31, 1967.

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Powers of the Commission

SEC. 6. (a) The Commission or, on authorization of the Commission, any committee of two or more members, at least one of whom shall be a member of the Congress of Micronesia, may, for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act, hold such hearings and sit and act at such times and places as the Commission or such authorized committee may deem advisable.

(b) The Commission is authorized to obtain from any department, agency, or instrumentality of the Executive Branch of the Government of the United States any information it deems necessary to carry out its functions under this Act, and each such department, agency, and instrumentality is authorized and directed to furnish such information to the Commission upon request made by the Chairman or the Vice Chairman when acting as Chairman.

Appropriations and Personnel

SEC. 7. (a) There are hereby authorized to be appropriated such sums, but not more than \$100,000, as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act, and such moneys as may be appropriated shall be available to the Commission until expended.

(b) The Commission is authorized to appoint and fix the compensation of an Executive Secretary and such other additional personnel as may be necessary to enable the Commission to carry out its functions, without regard to the civil service laws, rules, and regulations, but any Federal employee subject to those laws, rules, and regulations, who may be detailed to the Commission (which detail is hereby authorized) shall retain his civil service status without interruption or loss of status or privilege.