

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

0-19-68

RESOLUTION NO. 4-1968

INTRODUCED BY: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

A RESOLUTION RELATIVE TO RESPECTFULLY
MEMORIALIZING AND REQUESTING THE UNITED
STATES CONGRESSIONAL VISITING TEAM TO
USE ITS GOOD OFFICES TO URGE U.S.
CITIZENSHIP FOR THE INHABITANTS OF THE
MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT AND A RE-
UNIFICATION OF THE MARIANAS

WHEREAS, under provisions of the Trusteeship Agreement entered into between the United States of America and the United Nations, the administering authority is obligated to allow the inhabitants to determine their own political future according to "...the freely expressed wishes of the people concerned..."; and

WHEREAS, the people in this district have enjoyed living under a democratic system of government and have, on two (2) occasions, voted in official plebiscites for United States citizenship and the re-unification of the Marianas with the territory of Guam; and

WHEREAS, the Mariana Islands are under the jurisdiction of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands due to a historical accident that occurred in the language of the Treaty of Paris, which should have read "Guam and the Mariana Islands", as the indigenous inhabitants of Guam, Rota, Tinian, and Saipan are all one race, known as Chamorros, having a common language, religion, culture, customs, and traditions; and

WHEREAS, prior to the signing of the Treaty of Paris ending the Spanish-American War, Guam, Rota, Tinian, and Saipan had a common history as all these islands had been administered by Spain since the 16th Century; and

WHEREAS, while the Spanish Empire had control over the entire area now known as the Trust Territory, closer ties existed between the indigenous inhabitants of the Mariana Islands District and Guam, because Spain removed all inhabitants from Rota, Tinian, and Saipan to Guam for a period of 150 years as it made administration of the inhabitants easier; and

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WHEREAS, the separation of Guam from the rest of the Mariana Islands by the Treaty of Paris, possession of Guam being given by Spain to the United States of America, has always been considered to have been the result of an oversight by the United States by not realizing at the time that common ties existed among the people of the Marianas; and

WHEREAS, as a result of this separation, free movement of the inhabitants among the islands was curtailed which has and still causes great sorrow and inconvenience, especially to relatives who suddenly found themselves separated; and

WHEREAS, our aspiration to be re-unified with the territory of Guam does not intend directly or indirectly, or under any circumstances should it be regarded as to imply racial discrimination towards the inhabitants of the other islands within the Trust Territory, but unlike the inhabitants of the other islands, the inhabitants of Rota, Tinian, and Saipan are of Guamanian descent and are entirely similar in culture, in language, in customs, in religion, and aspirations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the 2nd. Mariana Islands District Legislature that the United States Congressional Visiting Team be and is hereby respectfully memorialized and requested to urge United States citizenship for the inhabitants of the Mariana Islands District and the re-unification of the Marianas with the territory of Guam; and

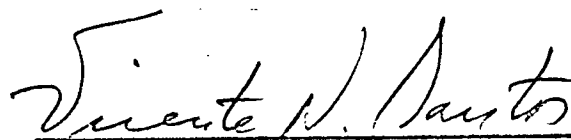
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President certify to and the Legislative Secretary attest the adoption hereof and thereafter transmit copies of the same to the District Administrator, Mariana Islands District, the High Commissioner, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior, Secretary of the United States Department

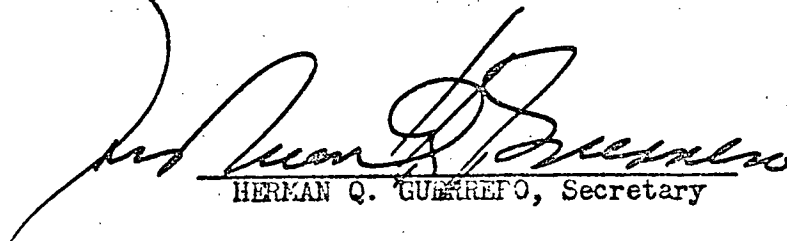
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of State, Chairman of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, United States House of Representatives, and to the Chairman of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, United States Senate.

PASSED BY THE 2ND. MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE JANUARY 19, 1968.


VICENTE N. SANTOS, President


HERMAN Q. GUEREFO, Secretary