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May 17, 1972

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The Honorable Vicente N. Santos  
President  
3rd. Mariana Islands District Legislature  
First Special Session, 1972

Dear Mr. President:

Your committee on Political, to which was referred Act No. 1-1972, entitled

"AN ACT CREATING THE MARIANAS POLITICAL  
STATUS COMMISSION: SETTING FORTH ITS  
POWERS AND DUTIES: AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

begs leave to report as follows:

The intent and purpose of this measure is to authorize the creation of a  
Marianas Political Status Commission and to empower the Commission to conduct  
such studies as it may deem necessary concerning the issue of the future  
political status of the Mariana Islands District leading toward a close  
political relationship with the United States of America and to conduct  
discussions and negotiations with the United States Government regarding  
future political status for the Mariana Islands.

Your Committee wishes to note that the provisions of the Charter of the  
United Nations and of the Trusteeship Agreement for the Former Japanese  
Mandated Islands call for self-determination and self-government for all  
people of the Trust Territory. Your Committee finds that the people of  
Mariana Islands District have long aspired for a close and permanent  
affiliation with the United States of America and this sentiment has been  
well expressed over the past 10 years or more in resolutions adopted by  
Mariana Islands District Legislature as well as by Municipal Legislatures  
in petitions to the United Nations and by direct representation to the  
United States Government. Your Committee further recognizes that the  
Congress of Micronesia through its Joint Committee on Future Status has  
reached a tentative solution to the question of political status not in  
accordance with the wishes and aspirations of the people of the Marianas

At the close of the Fourth Round of Negotiations in Palau, on April 15, 1972, the Mariana Islands District Representatives on the Joint Committee on the Future Status transmitted a request to the United States Delegation whether the United States would be willing to consider separately with a Mariana Islands District Future Political Status Commission to full political union with the United States of America. The United States Delegation responded affirmatively to this proposal. The measure of said measure during the current Special Session is the product of a favorable response from the United States Delegation.

The significance of this measure cannot be underestimated by your Committee. Any action taken on this decisive measure will determine the destiny of not only the present generation but inevitably the next generation. With this thought foremost in our minds, your Committee found it most necessary to conduct public hearings in order to permit and deliberate on the measure.

Your Committee conducted public hearings on May 15 through 16, 1972. Notices were made through the news media and personal contacts and inviting all interested persons in the Marianas Community to appear and express their views, opinion, sentiments and recommendations on the measure. Response from the general public was most encouraging. Your Committee kept record on all participants in the public hearings and a list of those participants is attached to this report for the record and information of the members of the Legislature.

Your Committee finds unanimous and overwhelming endorsement and support from all interested persons who testified before your committee. It was encouraging to note the sentiment expressed by the participants in the wisdom of the Legislature to include in the measure, equal and fair representation of all the interested sectors of the Marianas Community.

Your Committee wishes to note that various expression of opinions were made in the public hearings. Several requests were made regarding consideration for increase in number of the membership in the Commission. Other persons expressed concern as to whether the proposed appropriation of \$25,000 was sufficient to cover the operations of the Commission. Suggestions to improve certain provisions in the measure were seriously considered by your Committee. Accordingly, the measure has been amended to incorporate some of the meritorious recommendations by the general public, and the amendment are as follows:

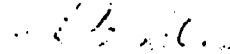
1. On page 1, Lines 6-7, delete the words "have political aspirations toward" and inserting lieu thereof the words desire a close political relationship with the United States of America".
2. On page 2, line 8 insert a new paragraph "(6) one person to be appointed by the Mayor of the Municipality of Saipan to represent the people of the Northern". Your Committee feels that the people of the Northern Marianas should be represented in spite of the fact that the population of the Northern Marianas is minimal. They are a part of the Marianas Community and their interests should be protected.
3. On page 2, lines 21-23, insert between "shall be" and "a citizen" The words "twenty-one (21) years of age or over,"
4. On page 2, line 22, insert the words "bona fide" between "and" and "resident".
5. On page 2, lines 22-23, between the words "District" and "No" insert the words "No person who has been convicted of a felony by any court of the Trust Territory or any court of the United States shall become a member of the Commission unless the person so


convicted has been pardoned and has had restored to him his civil rights."

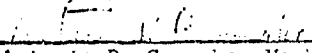
6. On page 2, line 26 delete "sixty (60)" and in lieu thereof insert "ninety (90)".
7. On page 3, line 21 after the word "Chairman," insert "except that those members who are government employees or full-time legislative officials or employees shall take leave from work or leave without pay from their regular government or legislative positions in order to receive compensation under this Act."
8. On page 3, line 28 insert after the words "District;" "leading toward a close political relationship with the United States of America;"

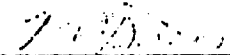
Your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of Act No. 1-1972, as amended, and recommends that it pass First Reading in the form attached hereto.

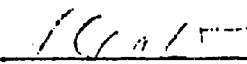
Respectfully submitted,

  
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Felipe A. Sales, Chairman

  
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Daniel T. Muna, Member

  
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Antonio R. Camacho, Member

  
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Luis M. Limos, Member

  
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Julian Calvo, Member