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3RD. MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION  
ACT NO. 2-1972  
INTRODUCED BY: HOLD-OVER COMMITTEE

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

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 3RD. MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE, THAT:

Section 1. Statement of Purposes. The Mariana Islands District Legislature finds that the people of the Mariana Islands District desire a close political relationship with the United States of America, a future political status different from that which has been tentatively chosen by the people of the remainder of the districts of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, as expressed by their representatives in the Congress of Micronesia. The Mariana Islands District Legislature further notes that the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, and of the Trusteeship Agreement, call for self-determination and self-government of all people of the Trust Territory. Since the Congress of Micronesia has reached a tentative solution to the question of political status not in accordance with the wishes of a majority of the people of the Marianas, the Mariana Islands District Legislature views it imperative that the people of the Marianas take appropriate and necessary steps toward their own resolution of this important question. To this extent, the Mariana Islands District Legislature hereby creates the Marianas Political Status Commission, and sets forth its powers and duties.

Section 2. Marianas Political Status Commission.

(A) There is hereby created the Marianas Political Status Commission, hereinafter referred to as Commission. The Commission shall consist of the following members:

- (1) Two persons to be selected by the Mariana Islands District Legislature,
- (2) The Marianas Representatives to the Joint Committee on Future Status of the Congress of Micronesia,
- (3) Two persons to be selected by the Rota Municipal Council,
- (4) Two persons to be selected by the Tinian Municipal Council,
- (5) Two persons to be selected by the Saipan Legislature,
- (6) One person to be appointed by the Mayor of the Municipality of Saipan to represent the people of the Northern Marianas,
- (7) A representative to be selected by the members of the Popular Party of the Mariana Islands District,
- (8) A representative to be selected by the members of the Territorial Party of the Mariana Islands District,
- (9) A representative to be selected by the members of the United Carolinian Association of Saipan, and
- (10) A representative to be appointed by the Mariana Islands District Administrator from a list of names to be submitted by duly organized business associations, firms, and organizations in the Mariana Islands District.

Selection shall be made by resolution of any legislative body selecting, and person to be selected need not be a member of the legislative body. Any person to be selected or appointed to the Commission shall be twenty-one (21) years of age or over, a citizen of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and bona fide resident of the Mariana Islands District. 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. No person shall become a member of the Commission unless and until the appointing authority shall have informed, by letter, the President of the Mariana Islands District Legislature. Selection and appointment to the Commission shall be made within ninety (90) days from the enactment of this Act.

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(B) The Commission shall select from its own members a Chairman and such other officers as it may require; provided, however, that the President of the Mariana Islands District Legislature shall convene the Commission and preside at its first meeting until such time as a Chairman can be selected. The first meeting of the Commission shall be called within thirty (30) days after the appointment of all members.

(C) The Commission may adopt such rules of procedure as it deems necessary or appropriate to exercise its powers, duties and functions under this Act.

(D) Membership on the Commission shall continue without specified term; provided, however, that a member's appointment may be revoked in the same manner as his appointment, for cause. Vacancies because of death, resignation, inability to serve, or other reason, shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

(E) Members of the Commission shall be compensated at the rate of twenty dollars (\$20.00) per day when actually performing functions of the Commission under this Act at the direction of the Chairman, 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. All members shall also receive travel expenses and per diem at Trust Territory Government rates. The Chairman shall certify all claims for payment.

**Section 3. Powers and Duties of the Commission.** The Commission shall have the following powers and duties:

(A) To make 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;

(B) To establish contacts and discuss the issue of future political status of the Mariana Islands District with appropriate persons and organizations within the United States, and in the United Nations, and solicit understanding support of the position of the people of the Mariana Islands District;

(C) To conduct discussions and negotiations with the United States Government on the future political status of the Mariana Islands District; provided, however, that any agreement reached on such issue shall not be binding on the people of the Mariana Islands District until ratified through a plebiscite or referendum;

(D) To conduct political education within the Mariana Islands District;

(E) To conduct a study of the alternative forms of democratic internal government available, and prepare basic constitutional proposals for submission as working papers to a Mariana Islands Constitutional Convention, if the same be authorized by the Mariana Islands District Legislature, and may study and make recommendations concerning the organization and timing of a Constitutional Convention;

(F) It shall submit periodic reports concerning its activities under this Act to the Mariana Islands District Legislature during its regular session;

(G) It may employ or engage consultants, technical services and any other staff as it may require to effectively promote the function of the Commission. The Mariana Islands District Legislature may make available technical assistance to the Commission upon request by the Chairman of the Commission; and

(H) To perform such other functions or duties as the Mariana Islands District Legislature may by law or resolution prescribe. The Commission shall have perpetual existence; unless sooner terminated by the Mariana Islands District Legislature.

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Section 4. There is hereby appropriated out of any unobligated surplus in the General Fund of the Mariana Islands District Legislature, the sum of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) to carry out the purpose of this Act, and shall remain available until expended.

Section 5. The District Treasurer is hereby authorized to make the funds authorized by this Act available to the Commission, who shall have control over the expenditure of these funds in accordance with the purposes of this Act. The sum herein appropriated shall be expended at the request, direction and approval of the Chairman of the Commission.

Section 6. This Act shall take effect upon approval by the District Administrator, or upon its becoming law without such approval.

PASSED BY THE 3RD. MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE MAY 18, 1972.

Vicente N. Santos  
President

Daniel T. Muna  
Legislative Secretary

Signed this 19th day of May 1972.

Francisco C. Ada  
District Administrator  
Mariana Islands District.

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A SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

Authorizing and directing the Joint Committee on Future Status to conduct negotiations with the United States regarding the establishment of Micronesia as an independent nation, while continuing negotiations toward Free Association.

1 WHEREAS, the 1947 U.N. Trusteeship Agreement also provides  
2 for the development of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands  
3 towards Independence; and

4 WHEREAS, the Congress of Micronesia in 1970 adopted the  
5 alternative of Free Association with the understanding that if  
6 the Congress of Micronesia and the United States fail to reach  
7 an agreement, Micronesia has no other alternative but Independence;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, the Congress of Micronesia through its representatives  
10 has not reached after three years and five rounds of negotiations  
11 an agreement with the United States along the lines of "Four  
12 Basic Principles and Legal Rights of Free Association" as established  
13 by House Joint Resolution No. 102; and

14 WHEREAS, the emerging agreement on Free Association between  
15 Micronesia and the United States may provide for terms and  
16 conditions other than those which the Congress of Micronesia  
17 desires, and which may not be in the best interests of the people  
18 of Micronesia, and hence would not be acceptable to the Congress  
19 or the people; and

20 WHEREAS, in the event that an agreement on Free Association  
21 proves unacceptable to the Congress and people of Micronesia,  
22 the Congress finds that Independence is the only viable alternative  
23 for the future political status of Micronesia; and

24 WHEREAS, it is a sacred duty and responsibility of the Congress  
25 of Micronesia to explore fully the alternative of Independence so

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1 as to enable the people of Micronesia to genuinely exercise  
2 their inevitable right of self-determination on the choices  
3 between Free Association and Independence during the plebiscite  
4 at the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement; now, therefore,  
5 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate, Fourth Congress of Micronesia,  
6 Second Special Session, 1972, the House of Representatives con-  
7 curring, that the Joint Committee on Future Status is hereby  
8 authorized and directed to conduct negotiations with the United  
9 States regarding the establishment of Micronesia as an independent  
10 nation, while continuing negotiations toward Free Association; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Joint  
12 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairman of the Joint Committee  
13 on Future Status and the President's Personal Representative to  
14 the Micronesian Status Negotiations.

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16 Adopted: September 2, 1972  
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A SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress of Micronesia with regard to certain issues relating to the future political status of Micronesia, and directing the Joint Committee on Future Status to conduct negotiations accordingly.

1 WHEREAS, House Joint Resolution No. 102, adopted by the  
2 Third Congress of Micronesia, created the Joint Committee on  
3 Future Status and gave it authority to negotiate with the United  
4 States of America toward the termination of the Trusteeship and  
5 the attainment of a new political status for Micronesia, subject  
6 to expressions of policies by the Congress of Micronesia; and

7 WHEREAS, the Congress of Micronesia is desirous of expressing  
8 the sense of the Congress with regard to certain important issues  
9 bearing upon such negotiations; now, therefore,

10 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Fifth Congress of  
11 Micronesia, First Regular Session, 1973, the House of Representatives  
12 concurring, that it is the sense of the Congress that the Trust  
13 Territory of the Pacific Islands is one single and indivisible  
14 political unit, and the Trusteeship may not be terminated or  
15 modified as to one part thereof while another part or parts thereof  
16 remain under such Trusteeship; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it is the sense of the Congress that  
18 the Congress of Micronesia, through the Joint Committee on Future  
19 Status, is the sole authority in the Trust Territory of the Pacific  
20 Islands which is legally authorized and empowered to conduct  
21 negotiations with regard to the future political status of the  
22 Trust Territory, including all parts thereof, and that the Congress

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A SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

Stating the position of the Congress of Micronesia relating to the future financial support for Micronesia.

1 WHEREAS, at the Fourth Round of Negotiations between the Joint  
2 Committee and the United States Delegation, the Joint Committee  
3 proposed that future United States support for Micronesia, in  
4 consideration of the rights and privileges which the United States  
5 would have in Micronesia and of the continuing obligation of the  
6 United States to contribute to the support and development of  
7 Micronesia, should be at the level of \$100,000,000 annually; and

8 WHEREAS, at the Seventh Round of Negotiations, the United States  
9 Delegation proposed a level of support in the form of grants  
10 equivalent to \$40,800,000 annually; and

11 WHEREAS, in response to the United States' initial offer, the  
12 Joint Committee made a subsequent offer for support at the level  
13 of \$80,000,000 per year in the form of grants; and

14 WHEREAS, the United States Delegation was unwilling or unable  
15 to reconsider its proposal to offer a higher figure which would be  
16 acceptable to the Joint Committee, which failure was the direct  
17 and proximate cause of the breaking off of the Seventh Round of  
18 Negotiations; and

19 WHEREAS, the Congress of Micronesia has examined carefully  
20 the anticipated needs of Micronesia over the coming years, and the  
21 positions of the two Delegations based upon such needs; and

22 WHEREAS, it is the sense of the Congress that, with United

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1 States financial assistance, Micronesia ought to become  
2 economically self-supporting within the shortest possible time;  
3 and

4 WHEREAS, it is the sense of the Congress that even financial  
5 support of \$100,000,000 annually for ten years would not be  
6 sufficient to meet the needs and requirements of Micronesia, and  
7 would therefore not be adequate compensation for the rights and  
8 privileges proposed to be given to the United States under the  
9 terms of the Draft Compact of Free Association; now, therefore,

10 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate, Fifth Congress of Micronesia,  
11 Second Regular Session, 1974, the House of Representatives  
12 concurring, that the position with regard to future financial  
13 support for Micronesia, as stated by the Joint Committee on Future  
14 Status at the Seventh Round of Negotiations between the Joint  
15 Committee and the United States, is hereby declared to express the  
16 minimum provisions which are acceptable to the Congress of  
17 Micronesia with regard to such issue; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Joint Committee on Future  
19 Status is directed to continue negotiations with the United States  
20 on the condition that progress is made toward a satisfactory  
21 agreement on future financial support based on the position of  
22 the Congress of Micronesia as set forth in this Resolution; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that certified copies of this  
24 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairman of the Joint Committee

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1 on Future Status and to the President's Personal Representative  
2 for Micronesian Status Negotiations.

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4 Adopted: March 4, 1974

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