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AGREEMENT ESTABLISHING A PERMANENT UNION BETWEEN  
THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS AND THE UNITED STATES

Whereas, the <sup>District</sup> Northern Mariana Islands of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, <sup>herein after called the N.M.I.s,</sup> and the United States of America, sharing common

[political] values and [national] goals mutually desire to establish an enduring political relationship <sup>WITH EACH OTHER</sup> [and a union between ~~their respective~~ governments]; and,

NO RECOG.  
OF SEPARATE  
POLITICAL  
ENTITY

Whereas, the people of the Northern Mariana Islands, <sup>have</sup> through public petition and referendum <sup>EXPRESSED</sup> for over twenty years, <sup>ENTER INTO SUCH A RELATIONSHIP IN ORDER TO</sup> have clearly [established] their desire to attain the benefits inherent under the American system and their desire that such a political union be permanent in nature; and,

Whereas, the people of the Northern Marianas <sup>in seeking to fulfill</sup> their rights <sup>is right</sup> [and privileges] under the Trusteeship Agreement <sup>TO</sup> [for self-determination and for <sup>fulfilled</sup> self-government for the people of the Northern Mariana Islands] believe that the <sup>fulfilled</sup> final realization of self-government may be <sup>fulfilled</sup> [acquired] by becoming a permanent member of the American political family; and,

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SELF-DETERM.  
IN TA, & NO  
NEED TO ESTAB.  
THIS PLEDGE

Whereas the United States of America in seeking to extend the benefits and privileges of the American system of government and to likewise establish a mutually satisfactory and enduring political relationship within the ideals and concepts of democracy, desires to accord the residents of the Northern Marianas the rights [and privileges] of self-government [and self-determination] to which they are entitled under the Trusteeship Agreement for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands; Now Therefore

Be it known to all those whose presence are made, that the duly

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appointed representatives of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands, being the members of the Marianas Political Status Commission, and the Personal Representative of the President of the United States of America ~~in the exercise of the authority of the Executive Office of the United States of America~~ at \_\_\_\_\_ (place) on \_\_\_\_\_ day of 1973(4) have hereunto affixed their signatures in ~~attestation to their full~~ agreement to the following principles and ~~related understandings~~ attached ~~hereto~~ Articles ~~of this Instrument~~ that shall govern the political union between the Northern Mariana Islands and the United States of America:

GENERAL PRINCIPLES GOVERNING THE  
POLITICAL UNION BETWEEN THE NORTHERN  
MARIANA ISLANDS AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

1. The Northern Mariana Islands of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands in its exercise of self-determination shall become a self-governing commonwealth under the sovereignty of the United States and be known as "The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands".
2. The future Commonwealth government will <sup>govern itself</sup> exercise ~~a maximum amount~~ of ~~self government~~ <sup>and</sup> consistent <sup>with THIS AGREEMENT</sup> with relevant portions of the United States Constitution, and <sup>OTHER</sup> federal law and ~~as established~~ pursuant to ~~this agreement and~~ a constitution of <sup>its</sup> their own adoption.
3. The United States will have responsibility for and complete authority in the fields of defense and foreign affairs and may, pursuant to Article IV, Section III, Clause 2 of the United States Constitution enact appropriate legislation for the Commonwealth.
4. The people of the Northern Mariana Islands will be given the opportunity of becoming citizens or nationals of the United States, as they may choose, <sup>WITH ALL</sup> and the rights and privileges <sup>ATTACHING</sup> thereto ~~as may be accorded~~ ~~appropriately~~.

5. The Commonwealth government may ~~if it so chooses~~ regulate the alienation of all public and private land <sup>SO AS</sup> to prevent their transfer to persons not of <sup>PERMANENT</sup> Marianan residency, recognizing the paramount rights of the United States to acquire property, ~~as may be attendant to its responsibilities~~ <sup>ARTICLES</sup> ~~as agreed to~~ under this instrument.

6. The United States shall ~~undertake to~~ extend financial support to the Commonwealth in the <sup>SUCH</sup> amounts and terms of which as <sup>UNLESS</sup> ~~may be~~ <sup>ARE</sup> established in this <sup>ARTICLES</sup> instrument ~~to assure the full attainment of and continuance of~~ <sup>AND MAY BE APPROVED BY THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES</sup> self-government ~~to which~~ <sup>IN</sup> the Commonwealth shall establish.

7. The United States will undertake to implement this agreement as may be practicable prior to the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement upon the approval of the instrument by the Mariana Islands District Legislature and by the residents of the Mariana Islands in a subsequent plebiscite and upon appropriate action by the Congress of the United States of America.

8. The parties to this agreement shall <sup>not terminate the relationship established in these</sup> ~~make no fundamental changes~~ <sup>articles</sup> respecting the ~~nature of the political relationship between themselves~~ <sup>nor modify any of the provisions set forth in section 102 of the attached agreement articles</sup> ~~(or the form of and exercise of powers by the government to which the Commonwealth shall establish pursuant to this instrument)~~ <sup>terminator of such</sup> unless there be mutual consent to such modification.

AGREED ARTICLES REGARDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE MARIANA ISLANDS

Article I

Sec 101. The Northern Mariana Islands, known as the Mariana Islands District of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, consisting of those islands and those territorial waters thereof which lie within the area north of 14° north latitude, south 20° north latitude, west of 150° east longitude, and east of 144° east longitude that are

administered by the United States of America pursuant to a Trusteeship Agreement with the Security Council of the United Nations (hereinafter "Trusteeship Agreement"), will upon termination of that trusteeship be a self-governing commonwealth under the sovereignty of the United States, to be known as "The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands".

Sec 102. The relations of the Commonwealth of the Mariana Islands with the United States shall be subject to the provisions of Article IV, Section III, Clause 2 of the Constitution of the United States and shall be conducted through such agency or agencies of the United States as the President may designate, provided that the following provisions of this agreement may be modified only with the consent of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Marianas: (LIST)

Sec 103. The rights, privileges, and immunities of citizens of the United States shall be respected in the Marianas as though the Northern Mariana Islands were a State of the Union and subject to the provisions of clause 1, section 2 of Article IV of the Constitution of the United States. This subsection shall not apply to the regulation of the alienation of real property or interests in real property for the purpose of restricting acquisition of such property or interests to persons of Northern Marianas descent.

Sec 104. The following provisions of the Constitution of the United States shall <sup>APPLY WITHIN</sup> ~~extend to~~ the Commonwealth as though it were a state of the union: Art I, Section 9, Clauses 2,3; Art I, Section 10; Art II, Section 2, Clauses 1,2; Art IV, Section 1; Clause 2 of Section 3; Amendments 1 through 9; Amendment 13; Sentence 2 of Amendment 14; Amendments 15 and 19.

Sec 105. All citizens of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands who are residents of the Marianas District at the time of the termination

BEFORE  
NO INDENTURE  
BY J. H. B. J.  
2. 10. 1974  
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of the Trusteeship Agreement and who have taken no affirmative steps to preserve or acquire any foreign citizenship or nationality, shall <sup>have the choice of becoming</sup> [be] <sup>OR NATIONALS</sup> citizens of the United States as of that date.

Sec 106. (a) All persons born in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands after the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement, and subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, are citizens of the United States at birth.

(b) Any person described in Section 105 of this Article who does not wish to be a citizen of the United States shall make declaration under oath of such desire within one year after the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement, or within six months after attaining the age of 18 years, whichever comes later, said declaration to be in the form and executed in the manner to be prescribed. Having made such a declaration, any such person shall be held not to be a citizen of the United States. Such person may elect at the time of such declaration to become a national of the United States or to retain his current national citizenship, but only in the form and manner to be prescribed.

#### Article II - - Constitutional Convention

Sec 201. Pursuant to a constitution of their own adoption as provided in and in accordance with this agreement, the people of the Mariana Islands shall form a government for these islands.

Sec 202. The District Legislature of the Marianas shall call a constitutional convention to write a constitution for the Mariana Islands, the provisions of which shall be in accordance with these Articles. Each of the present electoral districts within the Mariana Islands shall be represented in the Constitutional Convention.

Sec 203. The Constitutional Convention shall prepare a proposed constitution for the Northern Mariana Islands which shall be submitted not later than one year after the convening of the Constitutional Convention to the High Commissioner for transmission to the Congress of the United States. If the Congress of the United States finds that the proposed constitution is not contrary to the relevant provisions of the Constitution of the United States of America, terms of this agreement, legislation establishing the commonwealth pursuant to these articles, and any other relevant federal legislation, it shall so certify to the High Commissioner of the Trust Territory, who shall so advise the Marianas District Legislature which shall dissolve the Constitutional Convention. If the Congress finds that the proposed constitution does not meet the above criteria it shall so advise the High Commissioner of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands stating wherein in its judgment the constitution is deficient. The High Commissioner shall in turn submit such message to the Constitutional Convention for further action. The revised document shall be returned to the Congress of the United States and the same procedures repeated until the constitution is certified by the Congress.

Sec 204. (a) Upon certification by the Congress of the United States to the High Commissioner of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands in accordance with Section 203 of this Article the High Commissioner shall, within thirty days after receipt of such certification, issue a proclamation for a referendum to be held not more than ninety days after the date of the proclamation to vote "yes" or "no" on the following proposition.

*The people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands hereby adopt the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Mariana Islands as certified by the Congress of the United States.*

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(b) The High Commissioner of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and the Marianas District Legislature shall, within thirty days, following the referendum, determine the results of that referendum and convey their determination to the President of the United States. If a majority of the qualified votes cast at the referendum are in favor of adopting the proposition, the President, will issue a proclamation so stating, and the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands shall become effective upon termination of the Trusteeship Agreement.

Sec 205. Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands may be made from time to time as provided in that constitution. The courts of the United States shall be competent to pass on the consistency of such amendments with relevant provisions of the United States Constitution and of other federal law.

Article III - - The Constitution of the  
Commonwealth of the Mariana Islands

Sec 301. The Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Mariana Islands will contain provisions for a republican form of government, that will consist of an elected executive, a legislative assembly and a judiciary system.

Sec 302. The Executive. The executive power of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Mariana Islands shall be vested in the Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Constitution of the Commonwealth shall make provision for the popular election of the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor and for the term and powers and functions of the Governor.

Sec 303. (a) The Governor shall have the following powers and duties in addition to those conferred upon him by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth. He shall be responsible for the faithful execution of the laws of the Commonwealth and the laws of the United States applicable to the Commonwealth. He may, with the approval of the President of the United States, restore in the Commonwealth such civil rights as may have been lost as the result of convictions in Federal or State courts of the United States.

(b) Whenever it becomes necessary in case of disaster, invasion, insurrection, or rebellion, or imminent danger thereof, or to prevent or suppress lawless violence, the Governor of the Government of the Commonwealth may request <sup>of</sup> the President of the United States ~~for~~ <sup>the</sup> assistance of the military or naval commanders of the Armed Forces of the United States, which assistance may be given at the discretion of the President if not disruptive of, or inconsistent with, the Federal responsibilities of the Armed Forces.

(c) If any bill presented to the Governor contains several items of appropriation of money, he may object to one or more of such items, or any part or parts, portion or portions thereof, while approving the other items, parts or portions of the bill. In such a case he shall append to the bill, at the time of signing it, a statement of the items, or parts, or portions thereof, to which he objects, and the items, or parts, or portions thereof, so objected to shall not take effect. This provision shall be in effect so long as funds have to be appropriated by the Congress of the United States.

Sec 304. The Legislature. The legislative power of the Commonwealth will be vested in a legislature, every member of which shall be popularly



electd. All such members and all officers of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas shall taken an oath or affirmation to support the United States and the Constitution of the Marianas. The legislative power of the Commonwealth shall extend to all subjects of local application and may not be inconsistent with the Constitution of the United States, terms of this agreement, or with those statutes enacted under the authority of the United States which are specifically applicable to the Mariana Islands, including such statutes as may be enacted in the future.

Sec 305. The Judiciary. Courts of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas shall have jurisdiction over all cases arising under local law. The operation of said courts will be compatible with the federal court system of the United States and consistent with applicable federal law.

Sec 306. The United States shall establish a United States District Court in the Commonwealth which shall have the same powers and jurisdiction as other courts in the Federal Judicial System.

Sec 307. All final judgments or decrees of the highest court or courts of the Commonwealth in cases and controversies arising under the Constitution, treaties, and laws of the United States, not subject to further review in such courts, may be reviewed by the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit by writ of certiorari in accordance with such rules as that Court may prescribe and shall be subject to such further review in the Supreme Court of the United States as is provided in title 28 U.S.C.

Sec 308. The laws of the United States relating to removal of causes, appeals and other matters and proceedings as between the courts of the United States and the courts of the several states shall govern in such matters and proceedings between the courts of the United States and the courts of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Article IV - - Financial Assistance and Fiscal Provisions

Sec 401. The United States will, <sup>(subject to the AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS, /</sup> ~~extend funds~~ <sup>(PROVIDE ←</sup> to the Government of the commonwealth to assist in meeting the obligations of the Commonwealth Government, ~~but~~ <sup>SHALL SUCH ASSISTANCE CONTINUE</sup> In no event, for more than \_\_\_\_\_ years beyond the date of termination of the Trusteeship Agreement, ~~a sum up to \$ \_\_\_\_\_ million per~~ <sup>year</sup> ~~year as may be needed shall be made available as may be needed to pay such obligations~~. Additional funds in the amount not to exceed \_\_\_\_\_ million per year may be extended for a period not to exceed \_\_\_\_\_ years to assist in implementing needed capital improvement projects.

Sec 402. The levy of duties on goods imported into the Commonwealth from other than U.S. sources is hereby reserved to the Commonwealth Government.

Sec 403. All bonds issued by the Commonwealth Government or by its authority shall be exempt, as to principal and interest, from taxation by the Government of the United States or by the Government of any State, Territory, possession, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or any political subdivision thereof, or by the District of Columbia.

Sec 404. Effective on the first day of January following the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement, the income tax laws in force in the United States of America and those which may hereafter be enacted shall be held to be likewise in force in the Commonwealth\*.

OPTIONAL \*The Commonwealth Government shall support such revenues by the operation of local tax laws in such a manner as to render a more equitable application of the burdens of supporting the Commonwealth by its residents. (Check aspects of a Commonwealth Income Tax in lieu of a Federal Tax - e.g., Puerto Rico).

Sec 405. Effective on the first day of July following the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement, all customs, duties and Federal income taxes of the United States derived from the Commonwealth, the proceeds of all taxes collected under the internal revenue laws of the United States on articles produced in the Commonwealth and transported to the United States, its territories, or possessions, or consumed in the Commonwealth and the proceeds of any other taxes which may be levied by the Commonwealth on the inhabitants of the Marianas and all quarantine, passport, immigration, and naturalization fees collected in the Northern Marianas shall be deposited in the treasury of the Commonwealth and shall be expended for the benefit of the people of the Northern Marianas as the Commonwealth Government may by law prescribe.

Sec 406. Imports from the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas into the customs territory of the United States shall be subject to the same treatment as those from Guam.

Sec 407. The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas shall submit to the President of the United States or his appointed representative an annual report on the administration of the funds transferred to the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas pursuant to the provisions of this chapter. Such reports shall be transmitted by the President to the Congress of the United States.

Sec 408. Minimum Wage.

ST Sec 409. Currency Laws.

Sec 410.

Article V - - Public Property of the Commonwealth and  
Property Acquired by the United States

Sec 501. Upon termination of the Trusteeship Agreement the title to all real and personal property in the Marianas District owned by the Government of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, and all interest in such property including rights of use and including all right, title, or interest of the Government of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands in tidelands, submerged lands, or filled lands in or adjacent to the Mariana Islands held by the Government of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, shall be transferred to the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas. The term "tidelands, submerged lands, or filled lands" shall have the meaning ascribed to it in Section 1(a)

of Public Law 88-183 (77 Stat. 338). This subsection shall not apply to any interest in lands, which interest by local or customary laws or rights is held in private or communal ownership.

Sec 502. (a) All property and interests in property in the Commonwealth to be held by the United States not directly related to the defense responsibilities of the United States shall be acquired in the following manner: During the three-year period referred to in subsection 502(b), nothing herein shall impair the existing agreements between the Trust Territory Government and the United States Government or any agency or instrumentality thereof insofar as they relate to land use and retention, and the Commonwealth Government takes all such land as set forth in Section 501 subject to such agreements; provided, however, that such retention and use will at all times be consistent with the public purposes of the United States.

Sec 502. (b)(1). Within three years from the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement, the retention and use rights of the United States Government covered by subsection (b) shall terminate, unless, within that time the United States proceeds to acquire, in accordance with subsection (d) or (e) hereof whatever rights in such lands may be considered necessary for the public purposes of the United States.

(2). In any such acquisition, the amount to be paid for the property, or interest therein, shall be the current fair market value of the interest acquired, exclusive of any improvements made by the United States or its assigns, and less any amount or amounts previously paid, gratuitously or otherwise, therefore.

Sec 502. (c). The United States Government, its departments and agencies, are hereby authorized to, and may acquire for public purposes in the Commonwealth any property or any interest in property, including any temporary use, in accordance with this subsection and subsection (e). Such property, including that owned or controlled by private parties or the Commonwealth Government, may be acquired under this subsection by purchase, lease, exchange, gift, or otherwise under such terms and conditions as may be negotiated by the parties, subject to the limitations in Section \_\_\_\_\_ of this Article.

Sec 502. (d). In the event the United States is unable to acquire property or an interest in property by negotiation in accordance with subsection (d), then it may acquire property or an interest therein in accordance with its Constitutional authority and presently established and future Federal law and procedures with respect to the acquisition of real property or an interest in real property.

Sec 502. (e). In the event an interest in private or communally-owned property is acquired pursuant to subsection (e) and the owner or owners disagree with the fair market value and wish a further review, the United States shall proceed immediately in accordance with established Federal law and procedures to have the fair market value determined with the right of appeal under said Federal law and procedures to the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Sec 503. All agreements respecting property or interests in property in the Commonwealth held by the United States as of \_\_\_\_\_ attendant to its defense responsibilities shall continue in force and effect under the terms of the respective agreements notwithstanding the provisions of this <sup>Agreement</sup> ~~Instrument~~. The Commonwealth Government shall assure the rights

and uses of such lands and waters as is or may be required by the United States in the exercise of its responsibilities for defense and security of the Commonwealth or of the United States. Specifically, <sup>THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT</sup> it shall ~~provide~~ <sup>TAKE ALL MEASURES NECESSARY TO EFFECT THE TRANSFER OF TITLE TO THE UNITED STATES</sup> upon the ratification of this agreement, the following areas:

(a) Tinian Island. Twenty-six thousand two hundred acres and encompassing waters immediately adjacent to the island shall be made available for the use of the United States to establish an integrated homogeneous basing area to minimize the total land area required by the United States in the Commonwealth.

(b) Saipan Island

(1) Isley Air Field. One thousand eight hundred nine and thirty-five hundredths acres shall be made available for the use of the United States, which shall at its discretion make available for the use of the Commonwealth Government such acreage as is not essential for the immediate exercise of its defense responsibilities.

(2) Tanapag Harbor. Six hundred forty and twenty-three hundredths acres and the encompassing waters immediately adjacent to the harbor shall be made available for the use of the United States, which shall at its discretion make available for the use of the Commonwealth Government such acreage as is not immediately essential for the exercise of its defense responsibilities.

(c) Farallon de Medinilla Island. Two hundred twenty-nine acres encompassing the entire island and the waters immediately adjacent thereto shall be made available for use by the United States.

<sup>new</sup> 504. ← Sec 504. <sup>5</sup> The agreements for the lands and waters listed in Section 503 shall conform to the provisions of this Instrument and such agreements shall not contain any limitations on the use of such lands and

waters which conflict with the basic authorities and responsibilities of the United States for the defense and security of the Commonwealth and the United States under the Constitution of the United States. Such agreements will contain provisions for reversion, protections against environmental damage, resettlement of occupants wherever necessary, joint undertakings of the parties to insure a balanced social and community growth, and such other provisions that will provide for the mutual benefit and security of the parties.

Sec 505. The Governments of the United States and the Commonwealth will undertake to consult at any time requested by either of them on matters relating to defense.

#### Article VI - - Other Provisions

Sec 601. The United States will welcome the advice of the Commonwealth Government on international matters directly affecting the Northern Mariana Islands.

Sec 602. The United States will support the Commonwealth Government for membership in regional or international organizations concerned with economic, cultural or comparable areas of interest which permit representation from constituent parts of a political family.

Sec 603. The laws of COM, MDL, local municipalities, and all other executive or district orders <sup>now</sup> ~~not~~ applicable in the Mariana Islands shall remain in force and effect until and unless repealed or amended by the Commonwealth Government.

Sec 604. The rights of the United States to acquire property as set forth in Section 10<sup>4</sup> and Article V of these Articles shall be recognized. in the Constitution of the Commonwealth.



Sec 605. No law shall be enacted under the authority of the Commonwealth imposing any tax upon property of the U.S. or property of the Commonwealth. No <sup>TAXES</sup> ~~import~~ or ~~export~~ levies shall be imposed on goods imported into the Commonwealth from the United States or any of its territories or <sup>EXPORTED FROM THE COMMONWEALTH TO THE UNITED STATES OR ANY OF ITS TERRITORIES</sup> transported within the territories of the United States. OR

#### Article VII - Transitional Provisions

Sec 701. So much of the legislation of the U.S. Congress implementing these articles as relates to ~~Article IV~~ <sup>THIS AGREEMENT</sup> should become effective upon the enactment of that legislation. So much of that legislation as deals with ~~Article IV~~ <sup>THIS AGREEMENT</sup> should become effective upon the termination of the Trusteeship; provided, that the President shall have the power to make effective at an earlier date so much of the legislation relating to ~~Article IV~~ <sup>THIS</sup> and so much of the constitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas as is consistent with the continuation of the trusteeship.

Sec 702. The President of the United States shall appoint a commission of seven persons, at least three of whom shall be residents of the Mariana Islands, to survey the field of Federal statutes, including federal service and assistance programs, and make recommendations to the Congress of the United States within twelve months after the implementation of these Articles by Congress as to which statutes of the United States not applicable to the Northern Mariana Islands on such date shall be made applicable to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands upon the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement and which statutes shall be made inapplicable.

#### Article VIII - Effective Date and Ratification Procedures