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

1. The Mariana Islands of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands in the 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 govern itself pursuant to a constitution of its own adoption and consistent with this agreement, relevant portions of the United States Constitution, and other federal law.
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 either citizens or nationals of the United States, as they may choose, with all the rights and privileges attaching thereto.
5. The Commonwealth Government may regulate the alienation of all public and private land so as to prevent their transfer to persons not of Marianan descent, recognizing the paramount rights of the United States to acquire property.
6. The United States shall extend financial support to the Commonwealth in such amounts and under such terms of which as are established in the attached articles and as may be approved by the Congress of the United States.
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

action by the Congress of the United States of America.

8. The parties to this agreement shall neither terminate the relationship established in these articles nor modify any of the provisions set forth in section 102 of the attached agreed articles unless there be mutual consent to such termination or such modification.