

VII. Transition to a Post-Trusteeship Government

The proposed corporation is intended to administer the public lands of the Marianas only during an interim period pending the establishment of a new form of government. At such time as a post-Trusteeship government is established, it is contemplated that the lands still owned by the corporation -- together with its rights in existing leases, its accumulated cash and other assets, after provision for its debts -- would be assigned to the new government. In the alternative, provision could be made for a change in the structure of the corporation so as to become a creature of the government, resembling a public agency or authority. (For example, it could become a non-membership corporation, all of whose directors are named by the government.)

In either case, it would be necessary to provide a mechanism for the transition to the ownership and control of the public lands by the new government. Because of the difficulty of determining in advance precisely what constitutes a sufficiently independent government, we believe this problem would be best resolved by requiring a referendum of the members before transferring ownership and control of the public lands. The directors could be required to submit the question to the members upon the happening of certain events, for example, if the people of the Marianas are