

financial requirements; study the existing public lands, including present leases; negotiate for sufficient resources to accomplish the transition; and prepare initial recommendations with respect to personnel and budgets. It would consult with the United States so as to ensure a mutual understanding of the legal and operational questions involved.

Acting as incorporators, the organizers would actually charter the corporation. If it is decided that the people of the Marianas should constitute the membership, the incorporators would specify a few initial members and directors. As promptly as possible thereafter, the corporation would (1) identify and enroll all eligible members, and (2) appoint a nominating committee to select (and encourage petitions for) official candidates for the board of directors. Following completion of these steps, an election would be held at which the people could ratify the articles of incorporation and bylaws and select the first board of directors. We believe that these steps should, if possible, precede the execution of the final agreement between the corporation and the United States. This would have the added advantage of giving the people an opportunity to ratify the proposed agreement.

If it is decided that the District legislators should constitute the membership, the first board of directors could be selected immediately after incorporation. Even in this case, we believe that an election should be held to