

Federal funds will augment the Commonwealth's other growing financial resources from internal taxes, anticipated rebates of U.S. federal income taxes after the new status becomes effective and income from public lands. All of these resources would be directed toward assuring the economic development of the Northern Marianas, higher personal income and living standards for the people, capital improvements for social and economic growth, as well as improved public services.

Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Status Agreement

In the light of the progress achieved, both parties agreed to the establishment of a Joint Drafting Committee whose members (1) will be charged with the preparation of a Status Agreement in keeping with the tentative agreements reached to date; and (2) will have the authority to draft subject to the approval of their principals specific language for the provisions to be included in the agreement. Their draft will be presented to the Marianas Political Status Commission and the United States at the next negotiating session. It was reaffirmed that any final agreement will have to be approved by the Marianas District Legislature, the people of the Mariana Islands District in a plebiscite, and by the United States Congress.

Separate Administration

The final substantive item of discussion centered on the Marianas Political Status Commission's request for consideration of early transition to self-government and the possible separate administration of the Marianas