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Article IX

Resident Commissioner and Consultation

Section 901. (a) There will be a Resident Commissioner from the Northern Mariana Islands who will be entitled to receive official recognition as such Commissioner by all of the departments and agencies of the Government of the United States upon presentation, through [to] the Department of State, of a certificate of election by the Governor of the Northern Mariana Islands.

(b) The Resident Commissioner will have a term of two years and ^{will} be elected at the first general election to be held in the Northern Mariana Islands following the effective date of this section by the people qualified to vote for the members of the legislature, and subsequently at such general election every second year thereafter.

(c) No person will be eligible to election as Resident Commissioner who is not--

(i) a bona fide citizen of the Northern Mariana Islands, provided that any Resident Commissioner elected after the termination

of the Trusteeship must be a citizen of the United States;

(ii) at least twenty-five years of age; and

(iii) capable of reading and writing the English language.

(d) The Resident Commissioner will receive a salary payable monthly by the United States, and shall receive the same allowances for stationery, clerk-hire, and transportation expenses as the Delegate from the Territory of Guam.

Section 902. Whenever it appears that the normal consultation process between the United States and the Northern Mariana Islands is inadequate to deal with any specific problem or problems, the President of the United States and the Governor of the Northern Mariana Islands may convene a meeting to settle those differences. Such meeting will ^{also} be held at an appropriate time prior to the expiration of any multi-year period of financial assistance by the United States.

Section 903. (a) The Government of the United States will give sympathetic consideration to the advice of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands on international matters directly affecting the Northern Mariana Islands.

(b) The United States will assist and facilitate the establishment by the Northern Mariana Islands of offices in the United States and abroad to promote local tourism and other economic or cultural interests of the Northern Mariana Islands.

[(c) The United States will support membership by the Northern Mariana Islands in regional or other international organizations concerned with social, economic, educational, scientific, technical and cultural matters of concern to it, to the extent such organizations will permit such membership. The Government of the Northern Mariana Islands, with the approval of the Secretary of State, may negotiate and sign agreements with any international organization of which it is a member, provided that those agreements apply only to the Northern Mariana Islands and not to other parts of the United States.]