

DRAFT  
October 3, 1974

Article III

Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands

Section 301. The people of the Northern Mariana Islands will formulate and approve a Constitution in accordance with this Agreement and may amend their Constitution in accordance with the procedures provided therein.

Section 302. The Constitution will be submitted to the Government of the United States for approval on the basis of its consistency with this Agreement and the applicable provisions of the Constitution and laws of the United States. Thereafter the original provisions of the Constitution and amendments to the Constitution will not be subject to approval or disapproval by the Government of the United States; except that federal courts will be competent to determine whether amendments to the Constitution are consistent with this Agreement and with the provisions of the Constitution of the United States and federal laws applicable within the Northern Mariana Islands.

Section 303. (a) The Constitution will provide for a republican form of government with separate executive,

03-028779

7  
5

legislative, and judicial branches, and will contain a bill of rights.

(b) The executive power of the Northern Mariana Islands will be vested in a popularly elected governor and such other officials as the Constitution or laws of the Northern Mariana Islands may provide.

(c) The legislative power of the Northern Mariana Islands will be vested in a popularly elected legislature, and will extend to all rightful subjects of legislation.

(d) The judicial power of the Northern Mariana Islands will be vested in such courts as the Constitution or laws of the Northern Mariana Islands may provide. The operation of the courts of the Northern Mariana Islands will be compatible with the federal judicial system of the United States and consistent with applicable federal law.

Section 304. All members of the legislature of the Commonwealth and all officers and employees of the Government of the Commonwealth will take an oath or affirmation to support this Agreement, the provisions of the Constitution and laws of the United States applicable within the Commonwealth, and the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth.