

DRAFT  
October 7, 1974

ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT ESTABLISHING A  
POLITICAL UNION BETWEEN THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTHERN  
MARIANA ISLANDS AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Whereas, the Charter of the United Nations and the Trusteeship Agreement between the Security Council of the United Nations and the United States of America guarantee to the people of the Northern Mariana Islands the right freely to express their wishes for self-government or independence; and

Whereas, for over twenty years, the people of the Mariana Islands District, through public petition and referendum, have clearly expressed their desire for political union with the United States; and

Whereas, the United States supports the desire of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands to exercise their inalienable right of self-determination; and

Whereas, the people of the Mariana Islands District and the people of the United States share the goals and values found in the American system of government based upon the principles of government by consent, individual freedom, and democracy;

Now, therefore, the Marianas Political Status Commission, being the duly appointed representatives of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Personal Representative of the President of the United States have entered into these Articles of Agreement to establish a self-governing commonwealth for the Northern Mariana Islands within the American political system and define the future relationship between the people

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of the Mariana Islands District and the United States. Approval of these Articles of Agreement will constitute a sovereign act of self-determination on the part of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands.