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ARTICLE IX

Resident Commissioner and Consultation

Section 901.

(a) The Northern Mariana Islands may maintain in Washington, D.C. a Resident Commissioner who will be entitled to receive official recognition by all of the departments and agencies of the United States Government upon presentation, through the Department of State, of a certificate of [election from] [appointment 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.] [appointed by the Governor of the Northern Mariana Islands by and with the advice and consent of the upper house of the Northern Mariana Islands legislature.]

(c) No person will be eligible for [election] [appointment] as Resident Commissioner who is not--

(1) a bona fide citizen of the Northern Mariana Islands, provided that any Resident Commissioner [elected] [appointed] after the termination of the Trusteeship must be a citizen of the United States; and

(2) at least twenty-five years of age.

(d) In case of a vacancy in the office of Resident Commissioner by death, resignation, or otherwise, the governor, by

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and with the advice and consent of the upper house, shall appoint a Resident Commissioner to fill the vacancy, who shall serve the remainder of his predecessor's term and until his successor is [elected and] qualified.

(e) The Resident Commissioner will receive a salary payable monthly by the United States Government, and shall receive the same salary and allowances for stationery, clerk-hire, and transportation expenses as allowed members of the House of Representatives of the United States. He will be allowed the franking privileges as such members.

Section 902. The United States Government and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands will consult regularly on all matters affecting the relationship between them, and if any special issues should arise, the President of the United States and the Governor of the Northern Mariana Islands will each appoint a special representative or representatives to consider such issues and make recommendations thereon. Special representatives shall be appointed in any event to consider and make recommendations regarding future financial assistance to the Northern Mariana Islands pursuant to Section 701, to meet at least one year prior to the expiration of the initial seven year period of such assistance.

Section 903. Nothing herein shall prevent the presentation of cases or controversies arising under this Agreement to courts established by the United States. Any such cases or controversies will be justiciable in such courts, and the undertakings

by the United States Government and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands provided for in this Agreement shall be enforceable in such courts.

Section 904.

(a) The Government of the United States will give sympathetic consideration to the advice of the Government of the 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.]