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October 10, 1974

ARTICLE I

Political Relationship

Section 101. The relations between the Northern Mariana Islands and the United States will be governed by this agreement which, together with the provisions of the Constitution, treaties or laws of the United States applicable within or with respect to the Northern Mariana Islands will be the supreme law of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Section 102. The people of the Northern Mariana Islands will have the right of local self-government and will govern themselves with respect to local affairs in accordance with a constitution of their own adoption.

Section 103. The United States will have complete responsibility for and authority with respect to foreign affairs and defense affecting the Northern Mariana Islands.

Section 104. [U.S.: The United States may enact legislation in accordance with its constitutional processes which will be effective within the Northern Mariana Islands, being guided by its traditional respect for local self-government; but the fundamental provisions of this agreement, listed as follows, may be modified only with the consent of the government of the United States and the government of the Northern Mariana Islands: [List].]

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[MPSC: (a). The United States, in accordance with Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 of the Constitution of the United States, may, except as otherwise provided in this agreement, make legislation applicable within or with respect to the Northern Mariana Islands, provided that legislation which the United States could not make applicable within or with respect to a state of the Union may be made applicable within or with respect to the Northern Mariana Islands only if such legislation specifically provides that it shall be applicable within or with respect to the Northern Mariana Islands and if, taking into account the right of local self-government of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands, there is a compelling national interest in the application of such legislation within the Northern Mariana Islands.

(b). Notwithstanding any other provision of this agreement, or of the Constitution or laws of the United States, or of the constitution or laws of the Northern Mariana Islands, the fundamental provisions of this agreement, listed as follows, may be modified only with the consent of the government of the United States and the government of the Commonwealth: [List].]

Section 105. The Northern Mariana Islands on termination of the trusteeship agreement will become a self-governing commonwealth to be known as the "Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands", in political union with and under the sovereignty of the United States of America.