

Draft
October 10, 1974

REPORT OF THE JOINT DRAFTING COMMITTEE

Pursuant to the directions of the Marianas Political Status Commission and the President's Personal Representative for Marianas Status Negotiations, the Joint Marianas - United States Drafting Committee has met in Washington, D. C. and considered various matters referred to it in the Joint Communique of May 31, 1974. The results of our meetings are reflected in the attached working draft of the status agreement.

While the attached working draft records our suggested resolution of a number of substantive issues, and represents a recommended format in many respects, we must state that it is only a working, not a final, draft. Particularly difficult substantive problems with respect to which the Joint Drafting Committee has been unable to reach a recommendation are indicated by the bracketed matter in the attached working draft. But even with respect to matter not in brackets further technical examination by the members of the Joint Drafting Committee is required before the wording of these provisions can be recommended to the principals.

Two issues of form are presently unresolved. The first is the name to be attached to the status agreement. The United States has suggested it be referred to as a "Covenant"

The MPSC has suggested "Commonwealth Agreement". The second issue concerns the desirability of a list of general principles to be inserted between the preamble and the articles. The United States favors inclusion of such a list to set out in broad terms the major points of agreement between the United States and the Marianas. The MPSC believes that there is no necessity for such a list and that its inclusion could create technical difficulties.

The Joint Drafting Committee recommends that the principals direct it to continue its deliberations in an attempt to refine the text of the status agreement further prior to the next formal negotiating session.

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