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DRAFT
October 16, 1974

Whereas, pursuant to the Trusteeship Agreement the United States presently administers the Mariana Islands District of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands; and

Whereas, the people of the Mariana Islands District and the United States wish to define the future relationship between the Northern Mariana Islands and the United States; and

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 to freely express their wishes for self-government or independence; and

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

Whereas, the people of the Northern Mariana Islands 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; and

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Whereas, for over 20 years, the people of the Northern Mariana Islands, through public petition and referendum have clearly expressed their desire for political union with the United States;

Now, therefore, the Marianas Political Status Commission, being the duly appointed representative of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the President's Personal Representative for Micronesian [Marianas] Status Negotiations, being the duly appointed representative of the United States, have entered into this Agreement, which shall become mutually binding according to its terms and effective as provided herein after it is approved by the Mariana Islands District Legislature, by the people of the Mariana Islands District in a plebiscite, and by [the Congress and President of] the United States in accordance with constitutional processes.