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JOINT DRAFTING COMMITTEE WORKING DRAFT

October 21, 1974

~~1978.~~ AGREEMENT TO ESTABLISH A
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS IN
POLITICAL UNION WITH 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, 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 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

Whereas, for over twenty 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:

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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 this Agreement in order to establish a self-governing commonwealth for the Northern Mariana Islands within the American political system and define the future relationship between the Northern Mariana Islands and the United States. This Agreement shall be mutually binding when it is approved by the United States, by the Marianas District Legislature, and the people of the Northern Mariana Islands, in a plebiscite, constituting on their part a sovereign act of self-determination.