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JOINT DRAFTING COMMITTEE WORKING DRAFT

October 21, 1974

ARTICLE I

Political Relationship

Section 101. The Northern Mariana Islands [MPSC: as defined herein] 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.

Section 102. 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 to the Northern Mariana Islands will be the supreme law of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Section 103. The people of the Northern Mariana Islands will have the right of ^{internal} ~~local~~ self-government and will govern themselves with respect to local affairs in accordance with a Constitution of their own adoption.

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Section 104. The United States will have complete responsibility and authority with respect to matters relating to foreign affairs and defense affecting the Northern Mariana Islands.

Section 105. The United States may enact legislation, in accordance with its constitutional processes, which will be applicable to the Northern Mariana Islands. But in order to respect the right of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands to self-government guaranteed by this agreement the United States agrees to limit the exercise of that authority with respect to the following fundamental provisions of this agreement to the extent that they may be modified only with the consent of the Government of the United States and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands.

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