

ARTICLE IX

Resident Commissioner and Consultation

Section 901. [MPSC:(a) At such time as the population of the Northern Mariana Islands exceeds 50,000 persons, or sooner as determined by the Congress of the United States, the qualified electors of the Northern Mariana Islands shall choose a Delegate from the Northern Mariana Islands to the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States.]

[MPSC:(b) The Delegate from the Northern Mariana Islands shall be entitled to receive official recognition by all the departments and agencies of the Government of the United States upon presentation through the Department of State of a certificate of election from the Governor. The Delegate shall be entitled to all privileges and immunities of office as a Representative in the House of Representatives, but shall have no vote on the floor of the House. In all other respects, those provisions of law applicable to the Delegate from the Territory of Guam shall apply in like manner to the Delegate from the Northern Mariana Islands, except that prior to the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement the Delegate need not be a citizen of the United States.]

[MPSC:(c) Until such time as a Delegate has been selected pursuant to Subsections (a) and (b), the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands may appoint, or provide by law for the election of, a Resident Commissioner to the United States, whose term of office shall be determined by the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands and who shall be entitled to receive official recognition as such Commissioner by all of the departments and agencies of the Government of the United States upon presentation through the Department of State of a certificate of selection from the popularly elected governor. The United States shall provide the Resident Commissioner with the same salary and financial assistance as is provided to the Delegate from the Territory of Guam.]

[US:(a) The Northern Mariana Islands may maintain in Washington, D.C. a Resident Commissioner who will be entitled to receive official recognition by all of the departments and agencies of the United States Government upon presentation, through the Department of State, of a certificate of [election from] [appointment by] the Governor of the Northern Mariana Islands.]

[US:(b) The Resident Commissioner will have a term of two years and will be [elected at the first general election to be held in the Northern Mariana Islands following the effective date of this section by the people qualified to vote

for the members of the legislature, and subsequently at such general election every second year thereafter.]

[appointed by the Governor of the Northern Mariana Islands by and with the advice and consent of the upper house of the Northern Mariana Islands legislature.]]

[US:(c) No person will be eligible for [election] [appointment] as Resident Commissioner who is not--

(1) a bona fide citizen of the Northern Mariana Islands, provided that any Resident Commissioner [elected] [appointed] after the termination of the Trusteeship must be a citizen of the United States; and

(2) at least twenty-five years of age.]

[US:(d) In case of a vacancy in the office of Resident Commissioner by death, resignation, or otherwise, the Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the upper house, shall appoint a Resident Commissioner to fill the vacancy, who shall serve the remainder of his predecessor's term and until his successor is [elected and] qualified.]

Section 902. [US: The United States Government and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands ^{will} shall consult regularly on all matters affecting the relationship between them and if any special issues should arise, the President of the United States and the Governor of the Northern Mariana Islands will each appoint a special representative or representatives to consider such issues and make recommendations

thereon.] [MPSC: The United States Government and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands will consult regularly on all matters affecting the relationship between them. At the request of either Government, and not less frequently than every ten years, the President of the United States and the Governor of the Northern Mariana Islands will designate special representatives to meet and to consider such issues affecting the relationship between the Northern Mariana Islands and the United States as may be appropriate, and to make a report and recommendations with respect thereto.] Special representatives will be appointed in any event to consider and to make recommendations regarding future financial assistance to the Northern Mariana Islands pursuant to Section 701, and shall meet at least one year prior to the expiration of the initial seven year period of such financial assistance.

Section 903. Nothing herein shall prevent the presentation of cases or controversies arising under this Agreement to courts of or established by the United States. It is intended that any such cases or controversies will be justiciable in such courts, and that the undertakings by the United States Government and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands provided for in this Agreement will be enforceable in such courts.

Section 904. (a) The Government of the United States will give sympathetic consideration to the advice of the Government of the Mariana Islands on international matters directly affecting the Northern Mariana Islands.

(b) The United States will assist and facilitate the establishment by the Northern Mariana Islands of offices in the United States and abroad to promote local tourism and other economic or cultural interests of the Northern Mariana Islands.

[MPSC: (c) The United States will support membership by the Northern Mariana Islands in regional or other international organizations concerned with social, economic, educational, scientific, technical and cultural matters of concern to it, to the extent such organizations will permit such membership. The Government of the Northern Mariana Islands, with the approval of the Secretary of State, may negotiate and sign agreements with any international organization of which it is a member, provided that those agreements apply only to the Northern Mariana Islands and not to other parts of the United States.]