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MAJOR PROVISIONS OF  
THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
DRAFT POLITICAL STATUS AGREEMENT  
NOVEMBER, 1974

PROVISIONS OF THE DRAFT STATUS AGREEMENT

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I. DEFINITION OF THE POLITICAL RELATIONSHIP

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STATUS

A. SELF-GOVERNING COMMONWEALTH

1. RIGHT OF LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT EXPLICITLY RECOGNIZED IN STATUS AGREEMENT.
2. PEOPLE OF NORTHERN MARIANAS WILL FORMULATE AND APPROVE THEIR OWN LOCAL CONSTITUTION.
3. THE LOCAL CONSTITUTION WILL CONTAIN A BILL OF RIGHTS AND PROVIDE FOR SEPARATE EXECUTIVE, LEGISLATIVE AND JUDICIAL BRANCHES.
4. THERE WILL BE A POPULARLY ELECTED GOVERNOR AND OTHER OFFICIALS AS PROVIDED IN LOCAL CONSTITUTION.
5. MEMBERS OF LEGISLATURE WILL BE POPULARLY ELECTED, WITH REPRESENTATION FOR EACH ISLAND TO BE DETERMINED BY THE LOCAL CONSTITUTION.
6. LOCAL COURTS CAN BE ESTABLISHED AS LOCAL CONSTITUTION OR LAWS DETERMINE.
7. THERE WILL BE A U. S. COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANAS TO WHICH THE LOCAL LEGISLATURE CAN GIVE TRIAL OR APPELLATE JURISDICTION WITH RESPECT TO LOCAL MATTERS.

B. UNITED STATES SOVEREIGNTY

1. NORTHERN MARIANAS WILL BE UNDER U. S. SOVEREIGNTY AS ARE ALL STATES, TERRITORIES AND THE COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO.
2. APPLICABLE FEDERAL LAW (INCLUDING STATUS AGREEMENT) WILL BE SUPREME, AS IN ALL STATES, TERRITORIES AND THE COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO.
3. THE U. S. WILL HAVE AUTHORITY OVER FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE, AND WILL CONSIDER ADVICE OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS ON MATTERS OF CONCERN.

C. MUTUAL CONSENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE U. S. WILL BE REQUIRED TO CHANGE FUNDAMENTAL PROVISIONS OF THE STATUS AGREEMENT

1. THIS ASSURES THAT THERE CAN BE NO CHANGE IN BASIC RELATIONSHIP UNLESS MARIANAS AGREES.

2. PROVISIONS WHICH CANNOT BE ALTERED WITHOUT MUTUAL CONSENT WILL INCLUDE AT LEAST THE FOLLOWING:

- ESTABLISHMENT OF SELF-GOVERNING COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS UPON TERMINATION OF TRUSTEESHIP.

- GUARANTEE OF RIGHT OF LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT AND AUTHORITY TO FRAME LOCAL CONSTITUTION.

- GUARANTEES OF U. S. CITIZENSHIP OR NATIONALITY.

- APPLICATION OF U. S. CONSTITUTION, INCLUDING BILL OF RIGHTS.

3. ADDITIONAL LIMITS ON U. S. AUTHORITY ARE BEING NEGOTIATED.

D. WASHINGTON REPRESENTATION

1. THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS WILL BE ENTITLED TO A REPRESENTATIVE IN WASHINGTON WHO WILL BE GIVEN OFFICIAL RECOGNITION BY THE U. S. GOVERNMENT.
2. THE U. S. EXECUTIVE BRANCH WILL SUPPORT THE REQUEST OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS FOR A NON-VOTING DELEGATE IN THE U. S. CONGRESS.
3. ADDITIONAL ASSURANCE OF NON-VOTING DELEGATE STILL BEING NEGOTIATED.

E. CONSULTATION

1. REGULAR CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE U. S. AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS CONCERNING RELATIONSHIP.
2. FORMAL MEETING OF SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVES AT LEAST EVERY TEN YEARS AND WHEN NEEDED TO CONSIDER LEVELS OF U. S. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.