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JOINT DRAFTING COMMITTEE WORKING DRAFT

November 21, 1974

[MPSG, AGREEMENT] U.S. CONVENANT: ~~OF ARTICLES~~ 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;

Now, therefore, the Marianas Political Status Commission, being the duly appointed representative 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 to define the future relationship between the Northern Mariana Islands and the United States. This ~~Agreement~~ will be mutually binding when it is approved by the United States, by the Mariana Islands District Legislature, and by the people of the Northern Mariana Islands in a plebiscite, constituting on their part a sovereign act of self-determination.

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ARTICLE I

Political Relationship

Section 101. The Northern Mariana Islands upon 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 and 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 local self-government and will govern themselves with respect to internal affairs in accordance with a Constitution of their own adoption.

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

Section 105. [US: 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 fundamental provisions of this Agreement contained in Articles I, II and III, and Section 501, 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.]

[MPSC: (a) The United States, in accordance with Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 of the Constitution of the United States, may, except as otherwise provided in this Agreement, enact legislation applicable to the Northern Mariana Islands, provided that legislation which the United States could not make applicable to a State of the Union may be made applicable to the Northern Mariana Islands only if such legislation specifically provides that it will be applicable to the Northern Mariana Islands and if, taking into account the right of local self-government of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands, there is a compelling national interest in the application of such legislation to the Northern Mariana Islands.]

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[MPSC: (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement or of the Constitution or laws of the United States, or of the Constitution or laws of the Northern Mariana Islands, the fundamental provisions of this Agreement, found in Articles I, II and III and Sections 501, 503, 702, 805 and 806 may be modified only with the consent of the Government of the United States and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands.]

[MPSC: (c) Consent by the United States or the Northern Mariana Islands will be given in a manner to be determined by their respective Constitutions or laws, provided however that prior to the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement consent by the Northern Mariana Islands may not be given without the approval of the legislature thereof.]

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ARTICLE II

Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands

Section 201. The people of the Northern Mariana Islands will formulate and approve a Constitution and may amend their Constitution pursuant to the procedures provided therein.

Section 202. The Constitution will be submitted to the Government of the United States for approval on the basis of its consistency with this ~~Agreement~~ and those provisions of the Constitution, treaties and laws of the United States to be applicable to the Northern Mariana Islands. [MPSC: The Constitution will be deemed to have been approved 60 days after its receipt by the President, unless earlier disapproved. The same procedure will be repeated if necessary.] Amendments to the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands may be made by the people of the Northern Mariana Islands without approval by the Government of the United States, but the courts established by the Constitution or laws of the United States will be competent to determine whether the Constitution and subsequent amendments thereto are consistent with this ~~Agreement~~ and with those provisions of the Constitution, treaties and laws of the United States applicable to the Northern Mariana Islands.

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Section 203. (a) The Constitution will provide for a republican form of government with separate executive, legislative, and judicial branches, and will contain a bill of rights.

(b) The executive power of the Northern Mariana Islands will be vested in a popularly elected Governor and such other officials as the Constitution or laws of the Northern Mariana Islands may provide.

(c) The legislative power of the Northern Mariana Islands will be vested in a popularly elected legislature, and will extend to all rightful subjects of legislation. The Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands may provide for a distribution of the legislature's membership on the basis of appropriate considerations in addition to population, notwithstanding other provisions of this Agreement or the provisions of the Constitution or laws of the United States applicable to the Northern Mariana Islands, provided such distribution is ratified by the people of the Northern Mariana Islands by their approval of the Constitution or amendments thereto.

(d) The judicial power of the Northern Mariana Islands will be vested in such courts as the Constitution or laws of the Northern Mariana Islands may provide.

Section 204. All members of the legislature of the Northern Mariana Islands and all officers and employees of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands will take an oath or affirmation to support this ~~Agreement~~, the provisions of the Constitution, treaties and laws of the United States applicable to the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Constitution and laws of the Northern Mariana Islands.



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ARTICLE III

Citizenship and Nationality

Section 301. The following persons and their children under the age of 18 years on the effective date of this Section, who are not citizens or nationals of the United States under any other provision of law, and who have taken no affirmative steps to preserve or acquire foreign nationality, are declared to be citizens of the United States, except as otherwise provided in Section 302:

(a) all persons born in the Northern Mariana Islands who are citizens of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands on the day preceding the effective date of this Section, and who on that date ~~reside on~~ are domiciled in the Northern Mariana Islands or in the United States or any territory or possession thereof;

(b) all persons who are citizens of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands on the day preceding the effective date of this Section, who have been domiciled continuously in the Northern Mariana Islands for at least five years immediately prior to that date, and under age, have registered to vote in ~~district~~ elections in the Mariana Islands District prior to January 1, 197[5];  
and

(c) all persons domiciled in the Northern Mariana Islands on the day preceding the effective date of this Section, who, although not citizens of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, do not on that day owe allegiance to any foreign state, and who on that date have been domiciled continuously in the Northern Mariana Islands since at least January 1, 197[4].

Section 302. Any person who becomes a citizen of the United States solely by virtue of the provisions of Section 301 may within six months after the effective date of that Section or within six months after reaching the age of 18 years, whichever date is the later, become a national but not a citizen of the United States by making a declaration under oath before any court established by the United States or any court of record in the Commonwealth in the form as follows:

"I.....being duly sworn, hereby declare my intention to be a national but not a citizen of the United States."

Section 303. All persons born in the Commonwealth on or after the effective date of this Section and subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, will be citizens of the United States.

Section 304. Citizens of the Northern Mariana Islands will be entitled to all privileges and immunities of citizens in the several States of the United States.

NOTE: Brackets in Sections 301(b) and (c) indicate an issue reserved for later determination.

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ARTICLE IV

Judicial Authority

Section 401. The United States will establish for and within the Northern Mariana Islands a court of record to be known as the "District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands." The Northern Mariana Islands will constitute a part of the same judicial circuit of the United States as Guam.

Section 402. (a) The District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands will have the jurisdiction of a district court of the United States, except that in all causes arising under the Constitution, treaties or laws of the United States it will have jurisdiction regardless of the sum or value of the matter in controversy.

(b) jurisdiction in all causes in the Northern Mariana Islands not described in Subsection (a), jurisdiction over which was not been court or courts of the Northern Mariana Islands. In causes brought in

the District Court solely on the basis of this Subsection, the District Court shall be considered a court of the Northern Mariana Islands for the purposes of determining the requirements of indictment by grand jury or trial by jury.

(c) The District Court will have such appellate jurisdiction as the ~~legislature~~ may provide. When it sits as an appellate court, the District Court will consist of three judges, at least one of whom will be a judge of a court of record of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Section 403. (a) The relations between the courts established by the Constitution or laws of the United States and the courts of the Northern Mariana Islands with respect to appeals, certiorari, removal of causes, the issuance of writs of habeas corpus, and other matters or proceedings will be governed by the laws of the United States pertaining to the relations between the courts of the United States and the courts of the several States in such matters and proceeding, except as otherwise provided in this Article; provided that for the first fifteen years following the establishment of an appellate court of the Northern Mariana Islands, the United Court of Appeals for the judicial circuit which includes

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the Northern Mariana Islands will have jurisdiction of appeals from all final decisions of the highest court of the Northern Mariana Islands from which a decision could be had in all cases involving the Constitution, treaties or laws of the United States, or any authority exercised thereunder, unless those decisions are reviewable in the District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands pursuant to Section 402(c).

(b) Those portions of title 28 of the United States Code which apply to Guam or the District Court of Guam will be applicable to the Northern Mariana Islands or the District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands, respectively, except as otherwise provided in this Article.

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ARTICLE V

Applicability of Laws

Section 501. The following provisions of the Constitution of the United States will be applicable within the Northern Mariana Islands as if the Northern Mariana Islands were a State of the Union: Article I, Section 9, Clauses 2, 3 and 8; Article I, Section 10, Clauses 1 and 3; Article IV, Section 1 and Section 2, Clauses 1 and 2; Amendments 1 through 9, inclusive; Amendment 13; Amendment 14, Section 1; Amendment 15; Amendment 19; and Amendment 26. Other provisions of or amendments to the Constitution of the United States, which do not apply of their own force within the Northern Mariana Islands, will become applicable within the Northern Mariana Islands only with the approval of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Government of the United States.

Section 502. The following laws of the United States in existence on the effective date of this Section, and subsequent amendments to such laws, will apply to the Northern Mariana Islands as follows, except as otherwise provided in this ~~Agreement~~:

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(a) those laws which provide federal services and financial assistance programs, Titles I, X, XIV and XVI of the Social Security Act, and the federal banking laws will apply as they apply to Guam; the Public Health Service Act will apply as it applies to the Virgin Islands; and the Micronesian Claims Act will apply as it applies to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands;

(b) those laws not described in Subsection (a) which apply to Guam and which are of general application to the several States will apply as they are applicable to the several States;

(c) those laws not described in Subsections (a) or (b) which are applicable to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, but not their subsequent amendments unless specifically made applicable to the Northern Mariana Islands, will apply to the Northern Mariana Islands as they apply to the Trust Territory until termination of the Trusteeship Agreement, and will thereafter be inapplicable.

Section 503. (a) The following laws of the United States, presently inapplicable to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, will not apply to the Northern Mariana Islands except in the manner and to the extent made applicable by the United States Congress by law after termination of the Trusteeship Agreement:



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(1) the immigration and naturalization laws of the United States ~~US~~ except as otherwise provided in Section 506;

(2) the coastwise laws of the United States, and any prohibition in the laws of the United States against foreign vessels landing fish or unfinished fish products in the United States; and

(3) the minimum wage provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act, as amended.

(b) Nothing in this Section shall be deemed to prevent the application to the Northern Mariana Islands of laws of the United States to the extent that they affect United States Government shipments or impose minimum wage requirements with respect to employees or contractors of the United States Government.

Section 504. The President will appoint a Commission on Federal Laws to survey the laws of the United States and to make recommendations to the United States Congress as to which laws of the United States not applicable to the Northern Mariana Islands should be made applicable and to what extent and in what manner, and which applicable laws should be made inapplicable and to what extent and in what manner. The Commission will consist

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of seven persons (at least ~~three~~ of whom will be citizens of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands who are and have been for at least five years domiciled continuously in the Northern Mariana Islands at the time of their appointments) who will be representative of the federal, local, private, and public interests in the applicability of laws of the United States to the Northern Mariana Islands. The Commission will make its final report and recommendations to the Congress within one year after the termination of the Trusteeship, and before that time will make such interim reports and recommendations to the Congress as it considers appropriate to facilitate the transition of the Northern Mariana Islands to its new political status. In formulating its recommendations, the Commission will take into consideration the potential effect of each law on local conditions within the Northern Mariana Islands, the policies embodied in the law, and the provisions and purposes of this Agreement.

The United States will bear the cost of the work of the Commission.

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Section 506. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 503(a)(1) the Immigration and Naturalization Act of the United States ~~still~~ apply to the Northern Mariana Islands after the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement with respect to United States citizens and nationals residing in the Northern Mariana Islands and their immediate relatives, as defined in Section 201(b) of that Act, as amended. For the purpose of this Section the Northern Mariana Islands shall be deemed to constitute a State as defined in Section 101(a)(36) of that Act, the term "United States" as defined in Section 101(a)(38) shall be deemed to include the Northern Mariana Islands, and the courts of the record of the Northern Mariana Islands District ~~and of~~ the Northern Mariana Islands ~~still~~ be included among the courts specified in Section 310(a) of the Act ~~as still~~ have jurisdiction to naturalize persons who are eligible to naturalized and who reside within that respective jurisdiction.

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Section 505. The laws of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, of the Mariana Islands District and its local municipalities, and all other Executive and District orders of a local nature applicable to the Northern Mariana Islands on the effective date of this Section and not inconsistent with this Agreement or with the provisions of the Constitution, treaties or laws of the United States applicable to the Northern Mariana Islands will remain in force and effect until and unless altered by the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Section 506.

nationals of the United States who are domiciled in the Commonwealth will become citizens of the United States at birth (and will have the right to retain such citizenship thereafter) under the same terms and conditions as persons born outside the United States of parents either or both of whom become citizens of the United States by virtue of being born in a State.]

[MPSC: (d) For purposes of Subsection (b) and (c) of this Section, and for the purposes of a person who becomes a national of the United States pursuant to this Agreement becoming a citizen of the United States, and for no other purpose, residence or physical presence in the Commonwealth will satisfy any residence or physical presence requirement of the naturalization laws of the United States to the same extent as residence or physical presence respectively in a State of the Union.]

[MPSC: (e) The courts of record of the Commonwealth and the District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands will have jurisdiction to naturalize persons as citizens of the United States in accordance with applicable law.]

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[US: (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 503(a)(1), the provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act of the United States will apply, beginning with the establishment of the Commonwealth, with respect to the immigration and naturalization of close relatives, as defined in Section 201(b) of the Act as amended, of persons who acquire United States citizenship pursuant to Article III of this Agreement.

[US: (b) The term "United States" as defined in Section 101(a)(38) of the Act will be deemed to include the Northern Mariana Islands for the purpose of satisfying the residence requirements contained:

[(1) in the provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act rendered applicable to the Northern Mariana Islands by Subsection (a) of this Section, and

[(2) in Sections 301 and 308 of the Immigration and Nationality Act relating to the acquisition of citizenship or nationality at birth of children born abroad to citizens or nationals of the United States, respectively.]

[US: (c) The courts of record of the Commonwealth and the District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands will have jurisdiction to naturalize persons to whom the Immigration and Nationality Act has been made applicable pursuant to Subsection (a) of this Section, and who reside within their respective jurisdictions.]

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ARTICLE VI

Revenue and Taxation Provisions

Section 601. (a) The income tax laws in force in the United States and those which may hereafter be enacted will be likewise in force in the Northern Mariana Islands as a separate territorial income tax, to be payable to the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands and to be known as the "Northern Mariana Islands Territorial Income Tax."

(b) As used in Subsection (a) of this Section the term "income tax laws in force in the United States" includes but is not limited to the following provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, where not manifestly inapplicable or incompatible with the intent of this Section: subtitle A (not including chapter 2 and section 931); chapters 24 and 25 of subtitle C, with reference to the collection of income tax at source on wages; and all provisions of subtitle F which apply to the income tax, including provisions as to crimes, other offenses, and forfeitures contained in chapter 75.

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(c) In applying the Northern Mariana Islands Territorial Income Tax pursuant to Subsection (a) of this Section, except where it is manifestly otherwise required, the applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 will be read so as to substitute "The Northern Mariana Islands" for "the United States," "Governor or his delegate" for "Commissioner of Internal Revenue" and "Collector of Internal Revenue," "District Court of the Northern Mariana Islands" for "District Court," with other changes in nomenclature and other language, including the omission of inapplicable language, where necessary to effect the intent of this Section.

(d) The administration and enforcement of the Northern Mariana Islands Territorial Income Tax will be performed by or under the supervision of the Governor of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Governor or his delegate will have the same administrative and enforcement powers and remedies with regard to the Northern Mariana Islands Territorial Income Tax as the Secretary of the Treasury, and other United States officials of the Executive Branch, have with respect to the United States income tax.

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[MPSC: (e) The legislature of the Northern Mariana Islands will have the power by law to amend, alter, modify or repeal the Northern Mariana Islands Territorial Income Tax.]

Section 602. [US: (a) Any individual who is subject to the provisions of Section 601 will file his tax return with the United States if at the close of the taxable year he is a resident of the United States or not otherwise a resident of the Northern Mariana Islands, or with the Northern Mariana Islands if he is a resident of the Northern Mariana Islands.]

[US: (b) If an individual to whom Section 601 applies is neither a resident of the United States nor the Northern Mariana Islands at the close of the taxable year, his tax return will be filed with the Northern Mariana Islands, if he is a citizen of the Northern Mariana Islands but not otherwise a citizen or national of the United States, or with the United States if he is otherwise a citizen of the United States.]

[US: (c) Pursuant to the above provisions and for the purposes of applying Section 601, the Northern Mariana Islands will be treated as if it were part of the

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United States, and for purposes of applying the United States Internal Revenue Code the United States will be treated as including the Northern Mariana Islands.]

[US: (d) Any individual who is liable for income taxes to the jurisdiction of the United States or the Northern Mariana Islands will be relieved of taxes imposed by the other jurisdiction.]

[MPSC: (a) The United States Internal Revenue Code of 1954 will apply by its terms to persons and entities within the Northern Mariana Islands who are subject to the taxing jurisdiction of the United States by reason of citizenship, place of incorporation, residence or source of income, except as otherwise provided in this Article.]

[MPSC: (b) In the case of an individual who is a resident of the Northern Mariana Islands and a United States citizen or United States national solely by reason of this being a citizen of the Northern Mariana Islands, or his birth or residence within the Northern Mariana Islands,

[(1) income derived from sources without the United States will be exempt from United States federal income tax and income derived from sources within the United States will be subject to such tax under Section 1 of the Internal Revenue Code;

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[(2) the federal estate tax will apply only to that part of the gross estate which at the time of death is situated in the United States and will be imposed at the rate provided by Section 2101 of the Internal Revenue Code (relating to nonresidents who are not citizens); and

[(3) the federal gift tax will only apply to gifts of tangible property situated within the United States.]

[US: (e)] ~~[US: (e)]~~ References in the Internal Revenue Code to possessions of the United States will be deemed also to refer to the Northern Mariana Islands, where not otherwise distinctly expressed or manifestly incompatible with the intent thereof~~x~~

Section 603. (a) The Northern Mariana Islands will not be included within the customs territory of the United States.

(b) The Government of the Northern Mariana Islands may, in a manner consistent with the international obligations of the United States, levy duties on goods imported into its territory from any area outside the customs territory of the United States, and impose duties on exports from its territory.

(c) Imports from the Northern Mariana Islands into the customs territory of the United States will be subject to the same treatment as imports from Guam into the customs territory of the United States.

(d) The United States will seek to obtain from foreign countries favorable treatment for exports from the Northern Mariana Islands, and will encourage other countries to consider the Northern Mariana Islands a developing territory.

[(e) Articles going into the Northern Mariana Islands from the United States, its territories and possessions, will be subject to the same treatment for purposes of the internal revenue laws of the United States as like articles going into Guam from such places.]

Section 604. (a) The United States may levy excise taxes on goods manufactured, sold or used or services rendered in the Northern Mariana Islands in the same manner and to the same extent as such taxes are applicable within

(b) The Northern Mariana Islands will have the authority to impose excise taxes upon goods manufactured, sold or used or services rendered within its territory or upon goods imported into its territory, provided that such excise taxes imposed on goods imported into its territory will be consistent with the international obligations of the United States.

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Section 605. (a) Not later than at the time this Agreement is approved, that portion of the Trust Territory Social Security Retirement Fund attributable to the Northern Mariana Islands will be paid over to the Social Security Administration of the United States, to be held as a separate fund to be known as the "Northern Mariana Islands Social Security Retirement Fund."

The United States will supplement such Fund if necessary to assure that persons receive benefits therefrom comparable to those they would have received from the Trust Territory Social Security Retirement Fund under the laws applicable thereto on the day preceding the establishment of the Northern Mariana Islands Social Security Retirement Fund, so long as the rate of contributions thereto also remains comparable.

(b) Those laws of the United States which impose taxes to support, or which provide benefits from, the United States Old Age, Survivors, Disability and Health Insurance Trust Funds will not be applicable to the Northern Mariana Islands until termination of the Trusteeship Agreement or such earlier date as may be agreed to by the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Government of the United States.

Section 605. (a) Not later than at the time this Agreement is approved, that portion of the Trust Territory Social Security Retirement Fund attributable to the Northern Mariana Islands will be paid over to the Social Security Administration of the United States, to be held as a separate fund to be known as the "Northern Mariana Islands Social Security Retirement Fund."

The United States will supplement such Fund if necessary to assure that persons receive benefits therefrom comparable to those they would have received from the Trust Territory Social Security Retirement Fund under the laws applicable thereto on the day preceding the establishment of the Northern Mariana Islands Social Security Retirement Fund, so long as the rate of contributions thereto also remains comparable.

(b) Those laws of the United States which impose taxes to support, or which provide benefits from, the United States Old Age, Survivors, Disability and Health Insurance Trust Funds will not be applicable to the Northern Mariana Islands until termination of the Trusteeship Agreement or such earlier date as may be agreed to by the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Government of the United States.

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(c) At such time as the laws described in Subsection (b) become applicable to the Northern Mariana Islands:

(1) the Northern Mariana Islands Social Security Retirement Fund will be disbursed as appropriate into the United States Old Age, Survivors, Disability and Health Insurance Trust Funds; and

(2) contributions to the Trust Territory Social Security Retirement Fund or the Northern Mariana Islands Social Security Retirement Fund will be considered to have been made to the United States, Old Age, Survivors, Disability and Health Insurance Trust Funds for the purpose of determining eligibility of persons in the Northern Mariana Islands for benefits from such Funds.

Section 606. (a) All bonds issued by the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands or by its authority will be exempt, as to principal and interest, from taxation by the United States, or by any State, territory or possession of the United States, or any political subdivision of any of them.

(b) During the initial seven year period of financial assistance provided for in Section 702, and during such subsequent periods of financial assistance as may be agreed, the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands will authorize no public indebtedness (other than bonds or other obligations of the Government payable solely from revenues derived from any public

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improvement or undertaking) in excess of ten percentum of the aggregate assessed valuation of the property within the Northern Mariana Islands.



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ARTICLE VII

United States Financial Assistance

Section 701

The Government of the United States will assist the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands in its efforts to achieve a progressively higher standard of living for its people as part of the American economic community and to develop that within other parts of the United the economic resources needed to meet the financial responsibilities of local self-government. To this end, the United States will provide direct multi-year financial support to the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands for local government operations; for capital improvement programs and for economic development. The initial period of such support will be seven years, as provided in Section 702.

"Section 702. Approval of this Covenant by the United States will constitute a commitment and pledge of the full faith and credit of the United States for the payment, as well as an authorization for the appropriation of the following guaranteed annual levels of direct grant assistance to the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands for each of the seven years following the effective date of this Section:"

Negotiation history will contain note to the effect that section not including in mutual consent clause for the reasons:

a. because it is of a transitional nature being limited to seven years,

and

b. because failure to appropriate funds on time would constitute a dispute under Article IX and could go to courts pursuant to terms of that article

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(a) \$8 million for budgetary support for government operations; and

(b) \$4 million for capital improvement projects, of which \$500,000 each year shall be reserved for such projects on the Island of Tinian and \$500,000 each year shall be reserved for such projects on the Island of Rota; and

(c) \$1.5 million for an economic development loan fund, of which \$500,000 each year shall be reserved for small loans to farmers and fishermen and to agricultural and marine cooperatives.

Section 703. (a) The United States will make available to the Northern Mariana Islands the full range of federal programs and services available to the territories of the United States. Funds provided under Section 702 will be considered to be local revenues of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands when used as the local share required to obtain federal programs and services.

(b) There will be paid into the Treasury of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands, to be expended to the benefit of the people thereof as the Government may by law prescribe, the proceeds of all customs duties and

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federal income taxes derived from the Northern Mariana Islands, the proceeds of all taxes collected under the internal revenue laws of the United States on articles produced in the Northern Mariana Islands, and transported to the United States, its territories or possessions, or consumed in the Northern Mariana Islands, and the proceeds of any other taxes which may be levied by the Congress on the inhabitants of the Northern Mariana Islands, and all quarantine, passport, immigration and nationalization fees collected in the Northern Mariana Islands, except that nothing in this Section shall be construed to apply to any tax imposed by chapters 2 or 21 of title 26, United States Code.

Section 704. (a) Funds provided under Section 702 not obligated or expended by the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands during any fiscal year shall remain available for obligation or expenditure by the Government in subsequent fiscal years for the purpose for which the funds were appropriated.

(b) Approval of this Agreement by the United States will constitute an authorization for appropriation of a pro-rata share of the funds provided under Section 702 for the period between the effective date of this Section and the beginning of the next succeeding fiscal year.

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ARTICLE VIII

Property

Section 801. [All right, title and interest in and to all real property in the Northern Mariana Islands

the Government of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands on the date of the signing of this ~~Agreement~~, or thereafter acquired in any manner whatsoever, will, no later than upon the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement, be transferred to the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands. All right, title and interest in and to all personal property by the Government of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands on the date of the signing of this Agreement, or thereafter acquired in any manner whatsoever, will, no later than upon the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement, be distributed equitably in a manner to be determined by the Government of the Trust Territory in consultation with those concerned, including the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands.

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Section 802. (a) The following property will be made available to the United States [MPSC: by lease] in accordance with this ~~Agreement~~ to enable it to carry out its defence responsibilities:

(1) on Tinian Island, approximately 17,808 acres (7,207 hectares) and the water immediately adjacent thereto;

(2) on Saipan Island, approximately 485 acres (196 hectares) adjacent to Isley Field, and approximately 177 acres (72 hectares) at Tanapag Harbor;

(3) on Farallon de Medinilla Island, approximately 206 acres (83 hectares) encompassing the entire island, and the water immediately adjacent thereto.

(b) The United States affirms that it has no present need to acquire any additional property, or any greater interest in property than that which is granted to it in accordance with this ~~Agreement~~, in order to carry out its defense responsibilities.

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Section 803. [US: The terms and conditions under which the foregoing land areas will be to the United States by the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands are included in a separate technical agreement executed at the same time as this Agreement. The technical agreement will be submitted to the Mariana Islands District Legislature for its approval and become effective upon the approval of this Agreement.] [MPSC: (a) The Government of the Northern Mariana Islands will cause the lease for the property described in Section 802 to be executed. The terms of the lease will conform to the provisions of this Agreement, will implement to recommendations of the Joint Land Negotiating Committee established by the Marianas Political Status Commission and the Personal Representative of the President of the United States, and will not contain limitations on the use of the property leased which conflict with the basic responsibilities and authorities of the United States under this Agreement.]

[MPSC: (b) The terms of the lease for the property described in Section 802 will include, but need not be limited to the following:

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[(1) the property will be made available to the United States for an initial term of 50 years and the United States will have one option to renew the lease for all or part of such property for an additional 50-year period;

[(2) the United States will reimburse the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands for the actual reasonable cost of obtaining title to the land described in Section 802 and the actual reasonable cost of removing any and all encumbrances with respect to such land which would be inconsistent with the lease to the United States for defense purposes;

[(3) the United States will obtain the interest in the property described in Section 802 under the lease upon payment by the United States of the sum determined by paragraph (4) hereof, provided that if the United States does not make such a payment within five years after the approval of this Agreement the lease will be null and void and of no further force and effect; and provided further, that each year or portion thereof following the expiration of the first year after the approval of this Agreement, until the expiration of five years after such approval, or until the payment by the United States of the sum determined by paragraph (4) hereof, whichever occurs first, the United States will pay to the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands a sum which bears the same ratio to [ten] percent of the amount determined by paragraph (4) as the number of acres owned or held by the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands within the area described in Section 802 (excluding, prior to the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement, land subject to a Use and Occupancy Agreement) bears to the total acreage therein, in recognition of the inability of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands to make full use of such land because it may have to be made available to the United States;



[(4) the United States will pay to the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands \$\_\_\_\_\_ million for the interests granted to the United States in the property described in Section 802, provided that this sum will be adjusted for each fiscal year until it is paid, by a percentage which is the same as the percentage change in the Guam Consumer Price Index using 1975 as the base year;

[(5) if the United States exercises its option to renew the lease for an additional 50-year period it will pay to the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands just compensation for the interests in property it obtains through the exercise of the option, but nothing will prevent the United States from the continued use and occupancy of the property with respect to which it exercises its option until just compensation is determined by negotiations between the Government of the United States and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands, or by the District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands in accordance with applicable rules for determining just compensation in eminent domain cases;

[(6) upon failure by the United States during a period of five years to make substantial and frequent use of the property, or of any significant portion thereof, for the purpose for which the property has been made available,

the interests of the United States in such property granted pursuant to the lease will be terminated, provided however, that the United States will be permitted to remove therefrom such property as it is permitted to remove pursuant to applicable law;

[(7) consistent with the intended use by the United States, the people of the Northern Mariana Islands will have maximum use of and accessibility to the property (including beaches, waters and other natural resources) leased to the United States, and such use and access will be on a basis no less favorable than that of the military personnel and their dependents for non-defense purposes;

[(8) there will be joint civilian and military use of the air field to be constructed on the Island of Tinian, and of the harbor at San Jose Village on the Island of Tinian, and appropriate civilian authorities will become responsible for the harbor no later than the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement;

[(9) in the course of planning and building infrastructure and facilities on or relating to the property leased to it, the United States will, to the maximum extent practicable, work jointly with the Northern Mariana Islands, and will promote the development of the local community through the appropriate joint use and development of power, water and similar facilities;

[(10) the United States will lease back to the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands for a nominal fee for the maximum practicable period of time the maximum practicable amount of property for agricultural and other appropriate purposes which are consistent with the intended use of the property by the United States;

[(11) in utilizing the property to be made available to it, the United States will act in a manner which accords full respect to the environment of the Northern Mariana Islands and to the safety of the people and property therein;

[(12) the United States will to the maximum extent practicable utilize and cause its contractors and employees to utilize the resources and services of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands in construction and supply activity relating to the property leased to the United States as if the Northern Mariana Islands were part of the United States, and the United States will provide technical and financial assistance to the people of the Northern Mariana Islands in accordance with applicable law to assure their participation in economic activity relating to the use of such property by the United States;

[(13) there will be established a Joint Committee on Civilian-Military Affairs to which any person with a grievance relating to the presence of the United States

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military in the Northern Mariana Islands may submit such grievance, and which will make a good faith effort to resolve such grievance; and

[(14) upon an adjudication by a court of proper jurisdiction that the United States has breached this Agreement, and upon a failure of the United States to correct a breach within a reasonable time, the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands may cause the lease to be terminated, but shall not terminate the lease under any other circumstance not provided for in the lease itself.]

Section 804. The Government of the United States will cause all agreements between it and the Government of the Trust Territory which grant to the Government of the United States use or other rights in real property located within the Northern Mariana Islands, other than real property required for active use by the United States for civilian governmental purposes [MPSC: and the joint use agreement relating to Isley Field], to be terminated upon or before the effective date of this Section.

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[MPSC: (b) The Government of the United States and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands will negotiate in good faith concerning the terms and conditions under which real property located in the Northern Mariana Islands needed for active use by the United States for civilian governmental purposes will be made available, and concerning the terms and conditions of the joint use of Isely Field on Saipan; provided, however, that the United States will continue to have the use of such real property and the joint use of Isely Field under the terms and conditions in effect upon the approval of this Agreement until but not after such negotiations are completed or the Trusteeship is terminated, whichever first occurs.]

Section 805. Except as otherwise provided in this Article, and notwithstanding the provisions of the Constitution or laws of the United States (applicable to the Northern Mariana Islands, the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands, in view of the importance of the ownership of land for the culture and traditions of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands, and in order to protect them against exploitation and to promote their economic advancement and self-sufficiency, US: will] [MPSC: may; or: will be empowered to] regulate the

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alienation of interests in real property, other than short term interests, so as to restrict the acquisition of such interests to persons of Northern Mariana Islands descent [US:, and will regulate the extent to which land now classified as public land can be held by individuals].

Section 806. (a) The United States recognizes and will respect the scarcity and special importance of land in the Northern Mariana Islands. If the United States must acquire any interest in real property not transferred to it under this Agreement, it will

seek to acquire only the minimum area necessary to accomplish the public purpose for which the real property is sought; seek only that minimum interest in the real property necessary to support such public interest, acquiring title only if the public purpose cannot be accomplished if a lesser interest is obtained; and seek first to satisfy the requirement by

1. It is understood that the provisions of this subsection represent the intentions of the United States which it intends to honor, but which are not designed to create any legally enforceable rights.

2. The use of property acquired by the United States pursuant to this section shall not be limited to public purposes for which it was originally obtained.

the Northern Mariana Islands which

private parties or by the Government of the Northern Mariana

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Islands by purchase, lease, exchange, gift or otherwise under such terms and conditions as may be negotiated by the parties. The United States Government will in all cases attempt to acquire any interest in real property for public purposes by voluntary means under this Subsection before exercising the power of eminent domain.

[MPSC: (c) (1) In the event it is not possible for the United States to obtain an interest in real property for public purposes by voluntary means, it will have and may exercise within the Commonwealth the power of eminent domain to the same extent and in the same manner as it has and can exercise the power of eminent domain in a State of the Union; provided however, that the United States will not exercise the power of eminent domain to acquire any interest in real property within the Commonwealth until the Congress of the United States has by law explicitly approved the exercise of the power of eminent domain to obtain a particular interest in particular real property in the Commonwealth.

[(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of Subsection (c) (1) of this Section, upon a determination by

the President that an interest in real property in the Commonwealth is needed for national defense purposes, the United States may take such an interest by eminent domain to the same extent and in the same manner as it can take such an interest by eminent domain in a State of the Union. No interest in real property taken pursuant to the preceding sentence will extend beyond nine months, and at the end of such period, the interest will revert to the original owner thereof, unless the United States shall have obtained an interest in such real property in accordance with Subsections (b) or (c)(1). The authority of the United States under the first sentence of this Subsection (c)(2) will not be exercised with respect to any particular real property unless six months or more have elapsed since the most recent exercise of this authority with respect to such real property.]

[US: (c) Except as provided in Subsection (d) of this Section the United States will not seek any interest in real property unless the Congress of the United States has both authorized the proposed project and provided funds therefor. Any interest in real property acquired pursuant to such congressional action will be by voluntary means



where possible. The power of eminent domain will be exercised within the Commonwealth only when voluntary means fail, only to the extent necessary, in compliance with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, and with full recognition of the due process procedures required by the United States Constitution.]

[US: (d) The minor land acquisition authority of title 10, United States Code, may be exercised within the Commonwealth to the same extent as it is available within any State of the Union.]

JOINT DRAFTING COMMITTEE WORKING DRAFT

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ARTICLE IX.

[MPSC: Delegate] [US: Resident Agent] and Consultation

Section 901. ~~(MPSC: (a) UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED~~ as a Delegate is selected pursuant to Subsection (b)) (U.S.: The ~~(MPSC: the~~ Constitution, laws of the Northern Mariana Islands may provide for the appointment or election of a ~~(Resident Commissioner (Resident-Agent) (Resident Representative~~ to the United States, whose terms of office will be two years and who will be entitled to receive official recognition as such ~~(Representative)~~ 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 Governor. The Representative must be a citizen and resident of the Northern Mariana Islands, at least twenty-five years of age, and, after termination of the Trusteeship Agreement, a citizen of the United States. ~~(MPSC: The United States will provide the Representative with the same compensation, allowances and benefits as are provided to the Delegate from Guam.~~ ~~(MPSC: (b) same as MPSC 901(a))~~

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ARTICLE IX

[MPSC: Delegate] [US: Resident Agent] 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 House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States, the qualified electors of the Northern Mariana Islands will choose a Delegate from the Northern Mariana Islands to the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States. After termination of the Trusteeship Agreement, the Delegate from the Northern Mariana Islands must be a citizen of the United States. Those provisions of law applicable to the Delegate from Guam will apply in like manner to the Delegate from the Northern Mariana Islands, except that Section 3(b) of Public Law 92-271, as amended, shall not apply until the election following the seventh year after termination of the Trusteeship.]

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[MPSC: (b) Until such time as a Delegate has been selected pursuant to Subsection (a), 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 will be determined by the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands and who will 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 Governor. The United States will provide the Resident Commissioner with the same compensation, allowances and benefits as are provided to the Delegate from Guam.]

[US: (a) The Northern Mariana Islands may maintain in Washington, D.C. a Resident Agent 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.]

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[US: (b) The Resident Agent 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 Agent who is not--

(1) a bona fide citizen of the Northern Mariana Islands, provided that any Resident Agent [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 Agent by death, resignation, or otherwise, the Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the upper house, will appoint a Resident Agent to fill the vacancy, who will serve the remainder of his predecessor's term and until his successor is [elected and] qualified.]

Section 902. The Government of the United States 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 in good faith such issues affecting the relationship between the Northern Mariana Islands and the United States as may be designated by either Government 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 multi-year financial assistance to the Northern Mariana Islands pursuant to Section 701, to meet at least one year prior to the expiration of every period of such financial assistance.

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

Section 904

(a) The Government of the United States will give sympathetic consideration to the views of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands on international matters directly affecting the Northern Mariana Islands, and will provide opportunities for the effective presentation of such views to no less an extent than such opportunities are provided to any other territory or possession under comparable circumstances.

(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.

(c). The Northern Mariana Islands may participate in regional and other international organizations concerned with social, economic, educational, scientific, technical and cultural matters /US: only to an extent comparable to that which may be authorized for any other territory or possession. /MPSC: to no less an extent than that which may be authorized for any other territory or possession under comparable circumstances. /

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ARTICLE X

Approval, Effective Dates,  
and Definitions

Section 1001. (a) This Agreement will be submitted to the Mariana Islands District Legislature for its approval. After its approval by the Mariana Islands District Legislature, this Agreement will be submitted to the people of the Mariana Islands District for approval in a plebiscite to be called by the United States

No person who is not both domiciled in the Northern Mariana Islands and ~~would~~ be eligible to vote in an election for the Northern Mariana Islands District Legislature if such elections were held on the day of the plebiscite will be eligible to vote in the plebiscite.

Approval must be by a majority of the valid votes cast in the plebiscite. The results of the plebiscite will be certified to the President of the United States.

(b) This Agreement will be approved by the United States in accordance with its constitutional processes and will thereupon become law.

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[MPSC: Section 1002. (a) The Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands will be drafted and approved by the people of the Northern Mariana Islands in a manner to be determined by the Mariana Islands District Legislature.]

[(b) Within thirty days after the approval of the Constitution by the people of the Northern Mariana Islands, copies of the Constitution will be transmitted to the President and the Congress of the United States. Not less than thirty nor more than 120 days thereafter, the President will issue a proclamation stating that the Constitution is approved by the United States, unless he finds that the Constitution is not consistent with this Agreement or those portions of the Constitution, treaties or laws of the United States which will apply to the Northern Mariana Islands pursuant to this Agreement. If the President finds that the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands is not so consistent, he will transmit a statement of the reasons for his determination to the Mariana Islands District Legislature.]

[(c) The procedures provided for in this Section will be repeated as necessary until the Constitution is approved by the people of the Northern Mariana Islands and by the United States.]

Section 100[3]. The President of the United States will issue a proclamation announcing the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement, or the date on which the Trusteeship Agreement will terminate, and the establishment of the Commonwealth in accordance with this Agreement. Any determination by the President that the Trusteeship Agreement has been terminated or will be terminated on a day certain will be final, and will not be subject to review by any authority, judicial or otherwise, of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, the Northern Mariana Islands or the United States. [MPSC: The United States will make all good faith efforts to terminate the Trusteeship Agreement at the earliest practicable date, in its entirety or insofar as it affects the Northern Mariana Islands.]

Section 100[4]. The provisions of this Agreement will become effective as follows, unless otherwise specifically provided:

(a) Sections 105, 201-203, 503, 504, 605, [801] and Article X will become effective on approval of this Agreement;

(b) Sections 102, 103, 204, 304, Article IV, Sections 501, 502, 505, [601], 603, 604, 606, Article VII, Sections 802-805, and ~~901-903~~ will become effective on a date to be determined and proclaimed by the President of

the United States which will be not more than 180 days after this Agreement and the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands have both been approved; and

(c) the remainder of this Agreement will become effective upon the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement and the establishment of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Section 100[5]. (a) The application of any provision of the Constitution or laws of the United States which would otherwise apply to the Northern Mariana Islands may be suspended until termination of the Trusteeship Agreement if the President finds and declares that the application of such provision prior to termination would be inconsistent with the Trusteeship Agreement.

(b) The Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands will become effective in accordance with its terms on the same day that the provisions of this Agreement specified in Section 100[4](b) become effective, provided that if the President finds and declares that the effectiveness of any provision of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands prior to termination of the Trusteeship Agreement would be inconsistent with the Trusteeship Agreement, such provision

will be ineffective until termination of the Trusteeship Agreement. Upon the establishment of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Constitution will become effective in its entirety in accordance with its terms, as the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Section 100[6]. As used in this Agreement:

(a) "Trusteeship Agreement" means the Trusteeship Agreement for the former Japanese Mandated Islands entered into between the Security Council of the United Nations and the United States of America, entered into force on July 18, 1947;

(b) "Northern Mariana Islands" means the area now known as the Mariana Islands District of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, which lies within the area north of 14° north latitude, south of 21° north latitude, west of 150° east longitude and east of 144° east longitude;

(c) "Government of the Northern Mariana Islands" includes, as appropriate, the Government of the Mariana Islands District of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands at the time this Agreement is signed, its agencies and instrumentalities, and its successors, including the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;

(c) The amounts authorized

Section 702 will be adjusted for each fiscal year by a percentage which is the same as the percentage change in the Guam Consumer Price Index, using Fiscal Year 1975 as the base year.

Upon expiration of the seven year period of guaranteed annual direct grant assistance provided by section 702 the annual level of payments in each category listed in Section 702 will continue until Congress appropriates a different amount or otherwise provides by law.

(d) "Territory or possession" with respect to the United States includes the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa,

[MPSC: Section 100[7]. The United States will, for purposes of administration, separate the Northern Mariana Islands from the remainder of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands in accordance with the request of the Mariana Islands District Legislature as promptly as possible after the approval of this Agreement by the people of the Northern Mariana Islands.]