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January 8, 1974

Howard P. Willens, Esq., Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering, 1666 K Street, N. W., Washington, D. C., 20006, U. S. A.

Dear Howard:

During my recent visit to Germany, I met Mrs. Mareike Spiess-Hohnholz, a journalist of the influential German magazine "Der Spiegel". Mrs. Spiess-Hohnholz asked me whether we could provide her with some press releases or information on recent developments in the Marianas Islands case. As Der Spiegel was very cooperative with us during our recent investigations in Germany, I should appreciate it if one of the associates would send her such information as may be available. Her address is Mrs. Mareike Spiess-Hohnholz, c/o Der Spiegel, 2 Hamburg 11, Brandswiete 19.

Sincerely,

Field

Dieter G. Lange

1666 K STREET, N. W. WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

Draft/MSH January 13, 1975

## EXPLANATION OF THE COVENANT TO ESTABLISH A COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS IN POLITICAL UNION WITH THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

This paper explains each Article of the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America. The Covenant has tentatively been agreed to by the Marianas Political Status Commission and the President's Personal Representative. It is expected that the final version of the Covenant will be signed in February, 1975. The Covenant will then be submitted to the Mariana Islands District Legislature for approval, and thereafter to the people of the Northern Mariana Islands in a plebiscite. If the people approve the Covenant, it will then be submitted to the United States Congress and to the President of the United States for approval. After these approvals are completed, the Covenant will become binding on both sides and will come into effect.

# TITLE

The title of the Covenant helps to explain its purpose. A "covenant" is a binding agreement, like a contract or a compact. The purpose of this Covenant is to

establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. A "commonwealth" is a self-governing political entity which is closely attached to another, larger political unit, such as a nation. In this case, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will be in permanent political union with the United States.

### PREAMBLE

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The Preamble states some of the background which lead to the Covenant. It notes that the Charter of the United Nations and the Trusteeship Agreement guarantee to the people of the Northern Mariana Islands the right to choose their own political status. The Preamble also states the United States support for the desire of the people to exercise their right of self-determination. Further, it notes that people of the Northern Marianas and the people of the United States share values of government by consent, individual freedom and democracy, and that for over twenty years the people of the Northern Marianas have formally expressed their desire for political union with the United States. For these reasons, the Preamble concludes, the Marianas Political Status Commission, representing the people of the Northern Marianas, and the Personal Representative of the President of the United States have developed the Covenant, which will be binding and effective only after approval by the Marianas District Legislature, by the people of the

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Northern Marianas, and by the Government of the United States.

### ARTICLE I: POLITICAL RELATIONSHIP

Article I deals with the political relationship between the Northern Mariana Islands and the United States.

This Article provides that the Northern Marianas will become a self-governing commonwealth in political union with and under the sovereignty of the United States upon termination of the Trusteeship Agreement. It further provides that the relationship between the Northern Marianas and the United States will be governed by the Covenant itself. It explicitly recognizes the right of the people to local self-government and their authority to govern themselves with respect to internal affairs in accordance with their own constitution.

An important part of the Commonwealth relationship is the fact that the United States will have "sovereignty," that is, ultimate political authority, just as the United States does with respect to all the States, the Territories and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. Thus the Covenant, together with the applicable portions of U.S. law, will be the supreme law of the Northern Marianas, just as federal law is supreme in other areas under the American flag. Further, the United

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States will have responsibility for foreign affairs and defense of the Northern Marianas.

The United States will be able to enact laws which will be effective within the Northern Marianas. Federal laws not generally applicable to the States, however, will affect the Northern Marianas only if the Northern Marianas is specifically named in the laws.

The Covenant specifically provides that its fundamental provisions designed to protect local selfgovernment in the Northern Marianas can be altered only by the mutual consent of the Government of the Northern Marianas and the Government of the United States. This is a guarantee of local self-government which has not formally been made by the United States to the territories. The fundamental provisions of the Covenant which are subject to "mutual consent" are these:

-- all of the provisions in Article I, dealing with the political relationship between the United States and the Northern Marianas, and providing for the establishment of a self-government Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas upon termination of the Trusteeship;

-- all of the provisions of Article II, dealing with the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands, and guaranteeing the right of local self-government and the authority to adopt a local constitution;

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-- all of the provisions of Article III, assuring persons in the Northern Marianas United States citizenship or nationality;

-- the provision in Article V guaranteeing that portions of the United States Constitution, including those portions of the Bill of Rights which protect fundamental individual freedoms, will be applicable to the Northern Marianas; and

-- the provision in Article VIII guaranteeing the right of the Northern Mariana Islands Government to regulate the alienation of real property so as to permit only persons of Northern Marianas descent to acquire permanent and long term interests inland.

### ARTICLE II: CONSTITUTION OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS

Article II deals with the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands. It guarantees to the people of the Northern Marianas the right to adopt and to change their own Constitution and form of government.

The local Constitution will have to provide for a government with separate executive, legislative and judicial branches -- the basic form of government found in the United States and all the States, the Territories and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. The local Constitution will also have to contain a Bill of Rights, which

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will be written by the people of the Northern Mariana Islands to protect themselves from unwarranted government action into their daily affairs and to guarantee their rights to freedom and liberty.

The executive branch of the local government will consist of a popularly elected governor and such other officials as the people of the Northern Marianas provide for in the Constitution. The legislative branch will be popularly elected too. The people will determine in the Constitution how many representatives each island will have in the legislature. The judicial branch of the local government will consist of such courts as the people of the Northern Marianas decide to create. These courts will be empowered to decide cases involving local In addition, a federal court will be created in law. the Northern Marianas by the United States to decide cases involving federal law. The federal court will also hear local cases if the local legislature determines that it should do so.

The original Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands will be reviewed by the U.S. Government to assure that it is consistent with the Covenant and with applicable federal law. Amendments to the local Constitution will not be reviewed by the U.S. Government,

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and the U.S. Government will have no authority to change the local Constitution.

### ARTICLE III: CITIZENSHIP AND NATIONALITY

Article III deals with U.S. citizenship and nationality for persons in the Northern Mariana Islands after the termination of the Trusteeship.

Upon termination of the Trusteeship the following persons and their children under 18 will become U.S. citizens unless they choose to become U.S. nationals instead:

-- persons born in the Northern Mariana Islands who are citizens of the Trust Territory and who live in the Northern Marianas or the United States or any U.S. Territory;

-- persons who are citizens of the Trust Territory and who have lived continuously as permanent residents in the Northern Marianas for five years prior to termination of the Trusteeship and who, unless under age, registered to vote in the Northern Marianas in a local election prior to January 1, 1975; and

-- persons who are not citizens of the Trust Territory or citizens of any foreign state and who have lived as permanent residents continuously in the Northern Mariana Islands since January 1, 1974.

Persons who wish to become U.S. nationals instead of U.S. citizens will do so by making a declaration under oath in court. There is no difference in the obligations of a national and a citizen in terms of taxes or selective service or similar matters, but citizens have certain advantages, such as being able to hold certain jobs, which nationals do not have.

Persons born in the Northern Marianas after termination of the Trusteeship will be U.S. citizens at birth. The Covenant also has provisions which assure that close relatives of persons in the Northern Marianas can become U.S. citizens after termination of the Trusteeship by living in the Northern Marianas.

### ARTICLE IV: JUDICIAL AUTHORITY

Article IV deals with the judicial authority of the United States in the Northern Marianas, and the relationship between the federal court to be established here and the local courts.

The United States will establish a federal District Court in the Northern Marianas. This court will have the same authority as other federal courts in the United States. The federal court will also be empowered to resolve legal disputes arising under local Northern Marianas law, but the local legislature will have the authority to decide what local

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matters should be in the federal court and what local matters should be in the local courts. Further, the federal court will be able to hear appeals from the local courts if the local legislature determines that it should do so.

Generally, the relationship between the local courts and the federal court in the Northern Marianas will be the same as the relationship between the local courts and the federal courts in the States. This means that appeals may be taken in appropriate cases from the local courts to the federal courts, including, eventually, to the Supreme Court of the United States.

There are special provisions in the Covenant to assure that jury trials will not be required in civil or criminal cases brought under local law unless the local legislature determines that they should be required. Similarly, a grand jury indictment in criminal cases brought under local law will not be required unless the local legislature enacts a law to that effect. This means that a criminal case may be brought under local law if the prosecutor determines that there is sufficient evidence of a crime, without first presenting that evidence to a special jury. Jury trials and grand jury indictments will be required in cases brought under federal law, however, just as is true in the States.

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# ARTICLE V: APPLICABILITY OF LAWS

Article V of the Covenant deals with the application of the Constitution and laws of the United States to the Northern Marianas, and assures that laws in existence at the time that the new Government of the Northern Marianas comes into effect will continue to be effective until altered by the local legislature.

As in U.S. Territories generally, certain important provisions of the U.S. Constitution will specifically be applicable to the Northern Mariana Islands. The Northern Marianas will be treated as if it were a State for the purposes of the application of these provisions of the Constitution. Of particular importance is the fact that all of the essential elements of the Bill of Rights will be applicable. This means that there will be express limitations on the federal and the local government which will guarantee freedom of religion, speech, press and assembly; protect against unreasonable searches and seizures; prohibit taking of property without just compensation; and assure due process of law and freedom from compulsory self-incrimination, double jeopardy and cruel and unusual punishment.

The Covenant also contains provisions which assure that the U.S. Constitution will not apply to the Northern Mariana Islands in any way which might prohibit

the local government from regulating land alienation, or from establishing representation for the individual islands which differs from the strict one-man, one-vote requirement applicable in the United States, or from providing for trials without juries and for the prosecution of criminal cases without an indictment by a grand jury.

The Covenant contains a formula for determining the initial manner in which federal laws other than the U.S. Constitution will apply to the Northern Marianas. In general, laws which are applicable to Guam and which are of general application to the States will apply to the Northern Marianas. Special provision has been made to assure that those laws which provide federal services and financial assistance programs, certain provisions of the Social Security Act not applicable in the States but applicable in Guam, and the federal banking laws will apply in the Northern Marianas as they apply in Guam. In addition, special provision has been made to assure that the Public Health Service Act, which provides financial and other assistance for a wide variety of health programs, will apply as it applies to the Virgin Islands, for this is advantageous to the Northern Marianas. Finally, special provision has been made to assure that the Micronesian Claims Act will continue to apply so that persons in the Northern Marianas may receive payments to which they are entitled.

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Three important kinds of federal laws that do not now apply to the Trust Territory will not apply to the Northern Marianas until the U.S. Congress determines, after the end of the Trusteeship, whether and how they should be applicable. First is the immigration laws of the United States. The Northern Marianas will have complete control over immigration until and unless, after termination of the Trusteeship, the U.S. Congress by law makes federal law applicable in some manner. Special provision has been made, however, to ensure that close relatives of Marianas citizens can become U.S. citizens by living in the Marianas after termination of the Trusteeship. Second, federal laws which require that goods travelling by ship between ports of the United States travel in American flag vessels, and which prohibit foreign flag vessels from landing fish or unfinished fish products in the United States, will not apply to the Northern Marianas until and unless made applicable in some manner by the Congress after termination of the Trustee-Third, the minimum wage provisions of federal law ship. as they apply to private employers and employees will not be made applicable to the Northern Marianas until Congress acts after termination of the Trusteeship Agree-The local government will, of course, have the ment. authority to pass such minimum wage laws as it deems

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appropriate for the economic conditions in the Northern Marianas. Further, special provision has been made to assure that employees of the United States and its contractors will receive the minimum wage in accordance with U.S. law.

The Covenant provides that the President of the United States will appoint a Commission on Federal Laws which may make recommendations with respect to the application of federal law. The Commission will consist of seven persons, at least four of whom will be from the Northern Marianas. The Commission will make its recommendations within one year after the end of the Trusteeship, and before that time will make interim recommendations. The cost of the Commission's work will be paid by the United States.

Finally, special provision is made to assure that the local laws of the Trust Territory and of the Northern Mariana Islands District will continue in effect until altered by the local legislature. This provision will assure that there is a body of law functioning in the Northern Marianas immediately upon the establishment of the new Government.

### ARTICLE VI: REVENUE AND TAXATION PROVISIONS

Article VI deals with a variety of revenue and taxation provisions, including provisions relating to

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customs and excise taxes, as well as social security benefits and other matters.

In general, the income tax laws of the United States will be applicable to the Northern Marianas in the same way that the income tax laws of the United States are applicable to Guam. This means that the federal income tax law will serve as a local territorial income tax. Taxpayers in the Northern Marianas will file only one tax return under simplified procedures. That tax return will generally be filed with the Government of the Northern Marianas and payments made to it. The Government of the Northern Marianas will have the authority to rebate taxes received by it from the local territorial income tax, just as the Government of Guam has this authority. In addition, the Government of the Northern Marianas will be able to impose such local taxes as it deems appropriate, including excise taxes on goods made, sold or used in the Northern Marianas or on work or services performed here.

The Northern Marianas will not be within the customs territory of the United States. This means that it will be a duty free port, as is Guam. Special provision has been made to assure that the Northern Marianas receives the same tax benefits as does Guam with respect to goods produced in the United States and shipped to the Northern Marianas. Special provision has also been made

to assure that goods going from the Northern Marianas into the customs territory of the United States will have the same favorable tax treatment as goods shipped from Guam into the customs territory of the United States. Finally, the United States agrees in the Covenant to try to obtain from foreign countries favorable treatment for goods shipped from the Northern Marianas.

Article VI also contains detailed provisions to assure that the people of the Northern Marianas get the maximum benefit of the U.S. Social Security System. No later than the time the Covenant is approved, the Northern Marianas share of the taxes paid into the Trust Territory Social Security Fund will be transferred to a special trust fund to be administered by the United States in accordance with locally enacted laws. A person entitled to social security benefits under the Trust Territory system will also be entitled to social security benefits under the new fund, and the United States will guarantee that persons receive those benefits. Upon termination of the Trusteeship, or earlier if the local Government agrees, federal laws establishing the U.S. Social Security System will become applicable to the Northern Marianas as they are applicable to Guam. At that time the people will be able to take full advantage of

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all benefits of the U.S. System. At the same time, the taxes will support the U.S. Social Security System will be extended to the Northern Marianas. The United States will guarantee that persons who are entitled to social security benefits under local law at the time the transfer is made will receive benefits in accordance with federal law instead.

Finally, Article VI assures that bonds issued by the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands will be exempt from taxation by the United States or any State or Territory. During the seven year period of financial assistance provided by Article VII, the local government will not be authorized to go into debt in excess of 10% of the total value of all property in the Northern Marianas.

### ARTICLE VII: FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Article VII deals with the direct financial assistance which the United States will provide for the Northern Marianas.

The Covenant assures that the United States will provide multi-year financial assistance to help the people of the Northern Marianas achieve a progressively higher standard of living as part of the American economic community and develop the economic resources

needed to meet the financial responsibilities of local self-government. The initial period of support will be seven years. During each of these seven years the United States guarantees that it will provide for the Northern Marianas a total of \$14 million in direct assistance, to be used as follows:

-- \$8.25 million annually to help pay for the operation of the local government, including salaries of government officials; \$250,000 of this amount each year will be used only for a special education training fund to help train local workers for new jobs needed because of the change in political status;

-- \$4 million annually to help pay for capital improvement projects, such as schools, roads and harbors; \$500,000 of this amount each year will be used only for projects on Tinian and \$500,000 of this amount each year will be used only for projects on Rota; and

-- \$1.75 million annually for an economic development loan fund; \$500,000 of this amount each year will be reserved for loans to farmers and fisherman and for agricultural and marine cooperatives; and \$250,000 of this amount each year will be reserved for a special fund for loans for housing for low income families.

The amount which the United States guarantees to provide each year will be adjusted to reflect inflation

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each year. After the initial seven year period of assistance is over, the Northern Marianas will continue to receive \$14 million a year until the U.S. Congress decides that another amount is appropriate.

In addition to the direct grant assistance, the United States will pay over to the local government all federal taxes collected in the Northern Marianas. This includes United States income taxes paid by military personnel who are in the Marianas.

Further, the United States will make available to the Northern Marianas the full range of federal programs and services available to the Territories generally. The value of these programs and services is estimated to be at least \$3 million annually.

There are many such federal services and financial assistance programs. In the area of public health and welfare, for example, the Northern Marianas will be eligible for the following kinds of programs in addition to the Public Health Service Act: health maintenance organization assistance, aid for dependent children, old age assistance, medicaid, food stamps, child nutrition, and the school lunch program. In the area of education, the Northern Marianas will be eligible for such programs as school construction in areas affected by federal activity, grants for basic adult education,

grants for vocational education and for public libraries. In the area of community development, the Northern Marianas will be eligible for such programs as community development act grants, airport and airway development act grants, mortgage insurance, sewage treatment grants, rural electrification and telephone service assistance, and disaster relief. In the area of public services, the Northern Marianas will be eligible for such programs as postal services, federal aviation administration assistance, public works or facilities assistance, law enforcement assistance, solid waste disposal act assistance, and assistance for road construction. Finally, in the area of employment and economic development, the Northern Marianas will be eligible for such programs as aid to small businesses, economic opportunity programs, and manpower development and training programs.

#### ARTICLE VIII: PROPERTY

Article VIII deals with a variety of issues relating to property in the Northern Marianas, including U.S. defense needs, return of public land including military retention land, and restraints on land alienation.

Article VIII provides that no later than the termination of the Trusteeship land in the Northern Marianas owned or held by the Trust Territory will be

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turned over to the local government. At the same time, all personal property (desks, chairs, typewriters, etc.) owned by the Trust Territory at the termination of the Trusteeship will be distributed equitably among the Districts after consulation with those concerned, including the Government of the Northern Marianas.

This Article also provides that the United States will lease -- not purchase -- from the local government or from the legal entity established to hold land in trust for the people of the Marianas, certain land needed for defense purposes. On the northern portion of Tinian, the United States will lease approximately 7,203 hectares. On Saipan, along the southernmost edge of Tanapag Harbor, the United States will lease approximately 72 hectares. Finally, the United States will lease the uninhabited island of Farallon de Medinilla, consisting of approximately 83 hectares. In the Covenant the United States makes the explicit statement that it has no present need for or intention to acquire any additional property for defense purposes, or to acquire ownership of the land which is being leased to it for defense purposes.

The United States will pay a lump sum total of \$19,520,600 for a fifty year lease on the land described above and for the right to renew the lease for an

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additional fifty years. This amount was determined as follows: for that land on Tinian, \$17.5 million; for that land at Tanapag Harbor, \$2 million; and for that land on Farallon de Medinilla, \$20,600. The money received for Tanapag Harbor will be placed into a trust fund to pay for the development and maintenance of a memorial park on \_\_\_\_\_ hectares of land, which will be leased to the United States and then immediately made available at no cost to the Northern Marianas for the park.

In addition, the United States has agreed that for the nominal sum of \$1.00 per acre per year it will lease back to the local government approximately 6,400 acres on Tinian and approximately 44 acres at Tanapag for uses which are consistent with the United States need for the land. A separate agreement, known as the "Technical Agreement," will be drafted to set out the specific details on the use of the leased-back land and the terms of the lease back arrangements. The Technical Agreement will also deal with such issues as accessibility to natural resources and beaches by the local population, joint use of Tinian Harbor and West Field, joint planning and development of utilities on Tinian, the park at Tanapag Harbor, safety and environmental protection, and the establishment of a joint civilian-military committee. The Technical Agreement is still being written, and will

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be made available to the public at the same time as the final Covenant is made available, so that the people will know all the details of the proposed land use arrangement at the same time as they vote on the Covenant.

Under the Covenant, the United States will cancel all its rights with respect to military retention land. This means that approximately 1,900 hectares will come under the control of the local government. The United States will continue to use Isley Field. Land presently used and needed for federal civilian activities, such as Post Office and Coast Guard activities, will continue to be used by the U.S. Government under terms and conditions comparable to those in effect.

Special provision is made in Article VIII to deal with the problem of land alienation. Recognizing the limited amount of land in the Northern Marianas, and the need to protect against exploitation and to promote economic advancement and self-sufficiency, the Covenant provides that Government of the Northern Marianas will until 25 years after the Commonwealth comes into existence, and may thereafter if it desires, prevent persons who are not of Mariana Islands descent from owning land or from obtaining long term interests in land. The implementation of these alienation restraints will be in the hands of the local government, which by law will define

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such terms as "Mariana Islands descent" and "long term interests" and other important terms. In addition, special provision is made to assure that the local government can regulate the amount of public land which any one person may own or use.

Finally, Article VIII deals with the authority of the United States to acquire land in the future which it needs for governmental purposes. The Covenant provides that in obtaining any land which it may need the United States will follow the policy of seeking only the minimum area and interest in land that is needed for the public project, of obtaining ownership of the land only if the public purpose cannot be met by a lease, and of first seeking to obtain public land in the Marianas before any private land is sought. In accordance with these policies, and respecting the protections contained in the due process clause of the United States Constitution and in federal law, the U.S. Government will be able to exercise the same power of eminent domain in the Northern Marianas as it has in all the States and Territories and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. Before exercising this power of eminent domain, the United States will attempt to secure the land which it needs voluntarily. Land in the Northern Marianas will be acquired only if the Congress has authorized the acquisition of the land and provided funds for payment to the land owner.

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### ARTICLE IX: NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS REPRESENTATION AND CONSULTATION

Article IX deals with the representation of the Northern Mariana Islands in Washington, D.C., and with the procedures for consultation between the local government and the U.S. Government.

The Northern Marianas will be entitled to elect or appoint a representative in Washington who will be given official recognition by all departments and agencies of the United States. This representative will present the views of the Norhtern Marianas to the United States Congress, but will not be a formal member of the Congress. The representative must be a citizen and resident of the Northern Marianas and at least twenty-five years of age. After termination of the Trusteeship Agreement, the representative must also be a United States citizen.

The Covenant provides that there will be regular consultation between the local government and the federal government on all matters affecting the relationship between them. At least once every ten years there will be formal meeting of special representatives to consider status and other issues. In addition there will be such meetings as are necessary to determine the amount of financial assistance the Northern Marianas will receive after the initial seven year period is concluded.

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> After this, it will be submitted to the people of the Northern Marianas in a plebiscite. The Covenant will be approved if a majority of those voting favor it. To be eligible to vote in the plebiscite a person must be domiciled in the Northern Marianas (that is, must be a permanent resident who intends to remain here) and must be eligible to vote in elections for members of the District Legislature. After the Covenant is approved by the Northern Marianas it will be submitted to both Houses of the United States Congress and to the President for approval on behalf of the United States.

> Immediately upon the approval of the Covenant by both sides the Covenant will become a binding agreement and certain provisions of it will become effective, such as those provisions relating to mutual consent and to the development of the local Constitution. After the local Constitution has been approved by the Northern Marianas and by the Government of the United States, most of the rest of the Covenant will become effective. The President of the United States will pick a day which is within six months after the approval of the local Constitution by both sides and on that day a new Government of the Northern Marianas Islands with an elected governor and a elected legislature, operating under its own Constitution, will come into existence. At that time almost

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Provision is made in this Article to assure that undertakings or promises by the Government of the United

States and by the Government of the Northern Marianas provided for in the Covenant will be enforceable in the federal courts, and to assure that the federal courts will be able to decide issues involving the Covenant.

Finally, the United States agrees in this Article to give sympathetic consideration to the views of the local government on international matters directly affecting the Norhtern Marianas and to provide opportunities for the presentation of the Northern Marianas views in the same way territories are permitted to do so. Likewise, if territories are permitted to do so, the United States will permit the Northern Marianas Government to participate directly in regional or other international organizations concerned with social, economic, educational, scientific, technical and cultural matters. Finally, the United States agrees to assist and facilitate the establishment of Northern Mariana Islands offices in the United States and in foreign countries to promote local tourism and economic or cultural interests.

# ARTICLE X: APPROVAL, EFFECTIVE DATES AND DEFINITIONS

The Covenant will first be submitted to the Mariana Islands District Legislature for its approval.

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all of the rest of the Covenant will come into effect -federal laws will become applicable to the extent provided for in the Covenant, local self-government will be assured, and federal financial assistance will begin. The new local Government will come into effect as described here even if the Trusteeship Agreement has not yet been terminated.

At that time the Trusteeship Agreement is terminated, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will come into effect under its own Constitution. At this time, those few remaining portions of the Covenant which have not come into effect, in particular, those provisions dealing with the U.S. citizenship and nationality and U.S. sovereignty, will come into effect.

The President of the United States is given authority by Article X to prevent any federal law or portion of the local Constitution from being applicable or effective until termination of the Trusteeship if he finds that such law or provision is in conflict with the Trusteeship Agreement.

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