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GRIEVANCES AND RECOMMENDATION

Section 101: Recommendation: delete "under the sovereignty of  
Section 102 says the Commonwealth Covenant, the United State Constitution, and  
all United States Treaties and Laws will rule over any proposed Marianas  
Constitution. In most democracies, a constitution is the supreme law of  
the land.

Recommendation: the provision must be deleted and a Marianas Constitution  
must declare itself supreme. Sovereignty must reside in the Marianas  
people.

Section 103 says local self-government, in accordance with the Marianas  
Constitution, will govern internal affairs. Yet, how much self-government  
is possible if a Constitution is governed by a Covenant, U.S. Constitution,  
treaties, laws, etc. This provision is nonsense. Again, sovereignty must  
reside in the Marianas people.

Recommendation: it must be deleted. Authentic internal self-government  
is not possible under this arrangement.

Section 104 gives the United States complete responsibility for foreign  
affairs and defense matters. However, it says nothing to guarantee the  
people of the Marianas that these responsibilities will be executed in the  
interests of the Marianas people. The recent Law of the Sea Conference  
proved that Micronesian (or Marianas) interests will not necessarily be  
accommodated. At that meeting, United States delegates renigged on an  
earlier written committment to the Micronesian delegation over certain  
issues, which the Congress of Micronesia considered a breach of the  
United Nations Trusteeship Agreement.

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If the United States will not hesitate to breach that agreement where it is answerable to the United Nations, it certainly will not hesitate to breach an agreement where it is accountable to only 10,000 people.

Section 105 will give the United States the privilege to enact legislation for the Marianas, with certain limitations, where only certain sections of the Covenant may be modified with consent from both the United States and Marianas. This concerns basically, applicability of the United States Constitution and ownership of Marianas lands, the Marianas Constitution, citizenship and nationality, and terms of the political relationship. In other words, it appears that some very basic provisions of the agreement can be changed later on, including, for example, reintergration with Guam, allowing outsiders ownership of Marianas lands, etc. "With the consent of the Government of the Marianas"...sounds safe, but this may not be to the advantage of Marianas people as soon as statesiders outnumber Chamorros, a very likely possibility under this arrangement in a very short period of time.

Recommendation: Since statesiders cannot be barred from immigrating to the the Marianas Commonwealth, this is very dangerous since they could represent the majority population in a short time period. This provision, therefore, must be deleted, or, rewritten to state that no fundamental provisions can ever be changed to alter this agreement.