

MVTrent:3-13-75:kkc

DRAFT PROCLAMATION BY SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

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WHEREAS on February 15, 1975 the Marianas Political Status Commission and the President's Personal Representative for Micronesian Status Negotiations signed a Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America; and

WHEREAS this signing marked the culmination of more than two years of active study and negotiations between the two parties and of more than twenty years of efforts by the people of the Northern Marianas to achieve a status of close association with the United States; and

WHEREAS the Covenant was unanimously ratified on February 20, 1975 by the Marianas District Legislature; and

WHEREAS by Resolution No. ___ of ___ the Marianas District Legislature requested the United States as Administering Authority of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands to set a date and call a plebiscite in the Marianas Islands District relative to the Covenant;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Rogers C.B. Morton, Secretary of the Interior, do hereby call for a plebiscite to be held on (Tuesday, June 17, 1975) throughout the Mariana Islands District to provide an opportunity for the voters of that

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District to exercise their right of self-determination under the Trusteeship Agreement. In order to encourage as wide a vote as possible, I declare that the day of the plebiscite shall be a public holiday in the Mariana Islands District.

→ Congress, UN

I further declare that the ballot to be presented to registered voters in the plebiscite shall be strictly limited to the following wording:

→ want people to vote YES

- Yes - I vote for Commonwealth and political union with the United States as set forth in this Covenant.
- No - I vote against Commonwealth and in favor of remaining a part of Micronesia, whatever future status may be negotiated.

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I invite the United Nations to send observers at any time convenient to themselves to witness the Plebiscite Information and Education Program, registration of voters, and other pre-plebiscite activity, and to witness the plebiscite itself. Fulllest possible facilities will be accorded such observers.

I have today issued Secretarial Order No. _____ which defines authority and means for holding the plebiscite in line with the responsibility of the United States as Administering Authority.