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DRAFT PROCLAMATION BY THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

WHEREAS on February 15, 1975^{after} the Marianas Political Status Commission and the Personal Representative of the President of the United States 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 Mariana Islands to achieve political union with the United States; and

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

WHEREAS by Resolution No. 126-1975 the Marianas District Legislature on February 28, 1975 formally requested the United States as Administering Authority of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands to set a date for and call a plebiscite in the Mariana Islands District relative to the Covenant;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Rogers C.B. Morton, Secretary of the Interior, by virtue of the powers vested in me under Executive Order 11021 of July 1, 1962, 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 District to exercise their right of self-determination under the Trusteeship Agreement of July 18, 1947 between the United Nations and the United States of America.

The ballot to be presented to the registered voters in the plebiscite shall be as follows:

Yes - I vote for Commonwealth ^[in political union with the United States] as set forth in the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America.

No - I vote against Commonwealth and in favor of remaining a part of Micronesia (whatever future status may be negotiated.)

*Eddie + Cele
11/6/74 MS*

→ political educe

In recognition of the historic importance of this act of self-determination, I declare that the day of the plebiscite shall be a public holiday in the Mariana Islands District.

I would welcome the presence of United Nations observers to witness the Plebiscite Education Program, the registration of voters, and other pre-plebiscite activities, and to witness the plebiscite itself. Such observers will be accorded all possible facilities.

I have today issued Secretarial Order No. _____ which defines the authority and procedures for holding the plebiscite for the Mariana Islands District in accordance with the responsibility of the United States as Administering Authority.

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