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UNION WITH THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA", SIGNED FEBRUARY 15, 1975 BY THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION AND AMBASSADOR HAYDN WILLIAMS, THE PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL REPRE-SENTATIVE FOR MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS. AN ACCOMP-ANYING SECRETARIAL ORDER, NO. 2973, DEFINES THE AUTHORITY AND PROCEDURES FOR HOLDING THE PLEBISCITE. BOTH PROCLAMA-TION AND SECRETARIAL ORDER ARE QUOTED FOR INFO AND IMMEDI-ATE RELEASE TO MNS:

QUOTE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

ORDER NO. 2973

SUBJECT: PLEBISCITE IN THE MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT

- WHEREAS, THE UNITED STATES AS ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY OF THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS HAS UNDER-TAKEN AN OBLIGATION UNDER THE TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT AND UNDER ARTICLE 76 OF THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER TO GIVE THE PEOPLES OF THE TRUST TERRITORY THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE FREELY THEIR OWN POLITICAL FUTURE; AND

- WHEREAS, THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT REPEATEDLY HAVE REQUESTED THAT THE UNITED STATES NEGOTIATE AN ARRANGEMENT WHEREBY THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS WOULD BECOME A PART OF THE UNITED STATES UPON TERMINATION OF THE IRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED NATIONS; AND

- WHEREAS, A COVENANT TO ESTABLISH A COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS IN POLITICAL UNION WITH THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, HAS NOW BEEN NEGOTIATED AND SIGNED BY THE DULY AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MARIANAS DISTRICT AND THE UNITED STATES AND RECEIVED THE UNANIMOUS APPROVAL OF THE MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT LEGIS-LATURE ON FEBRUARY 20, 1975;

- NOW, THEREFORE, PURSUANT TO EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 11221. OF JULY 1, 1962 AND WITH THE CONCURRENCE OF THE SECRETARY

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## OF STATE IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AS FOLLOWS:

SEC. 1 PUR POSE (UNDERLINED)

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- THE PURPOSE OF THIS ORDER IS TO ESTABLISH THE AUTHO-RITY AND THE ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE HOLDING OF A PLEBISCITE ON JUNE 17, 1975, IN THE MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT AS AN EXERCISE BY THE PEOPLE OF THAT DISTRICT OF THEIR RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION.

SEC. 2 THE PLEBISCITE COMMISSIONER (UNDERLINED)

- A PLEEISCITE COMMISSIONER DESIGNATED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PLANNING, THE PREPARATIONS FOR AND THE HOLDING OF THE PLEBISCITE

IN THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. THE COMMISSIONER SHALL:

- (1) ENSURE THAT AN IMPARTIAL PLEBISCITE EDUCATION FROGRAM IS CONDUCTED THROUGHOUT THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS;

- (2) APPOINT A PLEBISCITE VOTER REGISTRATION BOARD, DESIGNATE ITS CHAIRMAN AND ESTABLISH PROCEDURES FOR THE REGISTRATION OF VOTERS;

- (3) ESTABLISH AN OFFICIAL PLEBISCITE REGISTER ON THE BASIS OF THE FINAL VOTER REGISTRATION LIST AS CERTI-FIED BY THE VOTER REGISTRATION BOARD, TO INCLUDE QUALIFIED ABSENTEE VOTERS;

- (4) OVER SEE THE ADMINISTRATIVE PLANS FOR AND SUPERVISE THE HOLDING OF THE PLEBISCITE; AND

- (5) APPOINT AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WHG SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE TO HIM FOR THE EXECUTION AND COCHDINATION OF ALL ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF THE PLEBISCITE EC. 3 RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRUST TERRITORY OF TRE PACIFIC ISLANDS ADMINISTRATION (UNDERLINED)

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- (A) THE HIGH COMMISSIONER SHALL PROVIDE THE PLEBISCITE COMMISSIONER ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT AND SHALL ASSURE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICIES AND PROGRAMS RELATED TO THE REBISCITE IN THE MANNER PRESCRIBED BY THE PLEBISCITE COMMISSIONER.

- (B) THE TRUST TERRITORY HEADQUARTERS AND THE MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR AND STAFF SHALL ASSIST THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IN THE EXECUTION OF HIS DUTIES.

SEC. 4 NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS PLEBISCITE ADVISORY - COMMITTEE (UNDERLINED)

- (A) THERE IS HEREBY ESTABLISHED A NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS PLEBISCITE ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO BE APPOINTED BY THE PLEBISCITE COMMISSIONER. THE COMMITTEE SHALL CONSIST OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PRINCIPAL SECTORS OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS COMMUNITY INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO A REPRESENTATIVE FROM EACH OF THE FOLLOWING:

(1) MARIANAS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE

(2) MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION

(3) DISTRICI ADMINISTRATION

(4) SAIPAN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

(5) ROTA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

(6) TINIAN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

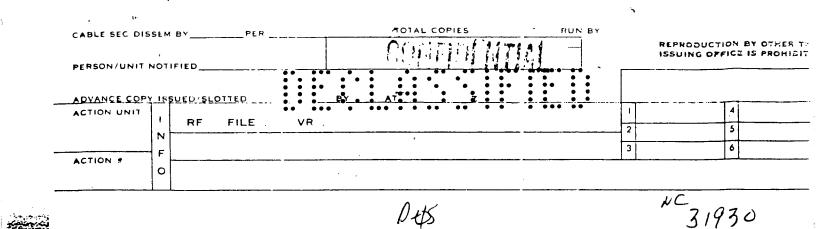
(7) UNITED CAROLINIAN ASSOCIATION

(8) POPULAR PARTY

(9) TERRITORIAL PARTY (10) CHAMEZR OF COMMERCE

(B) THE COMMITTEE SHALL CONSULT ON A CONTINUING BASIS

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WITH THE PLEBISCITE COMMISSIONER FOR THE PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF PROVIDING ADVICE FOR HIS CONSIDERATION ON ALL ASPECTS OF THE PLEBISCITE WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON THE PLEBI-SCITE EDUCATION PROGRAM.

SEC. 5 FUNCTION OF THE PLEBISCITE EDUCATION PROGRAM - (UNDERLINED)

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- UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE PLEBISCITE COMMISSIONER, TE PROGRAM WILL BE OPERATED IMPARTIALLY AND OBJECTIVELY, MAKING AVAILABLE TO ALL VOTERS THE RELEVANT FACTS INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE CHOICES. THE PROGRAM WILL PROVIDE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO SUCH INFORMATION THROUGH DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIALS, MEDIA USAGE AND OTHER FACILITIES FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION. THE PROGRAM WILL INCLUDE OBJECTIVE INFORMA-TION ON THE PROVISIONS OF THE COVENANT AND THE CHOICES OFFERED ON THE BALLOT.

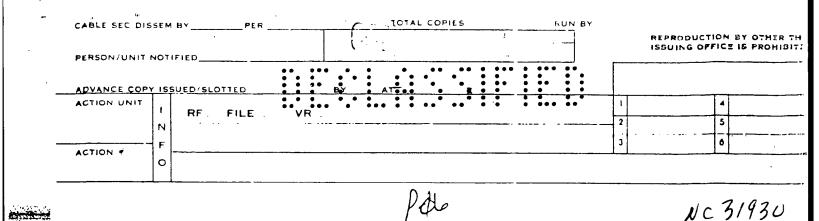
SEC. 6 PLEBISCITE VOTER REGISTRATION BOARD (UNDERLINED)

- (A) THERE IS HEREBY CREATED A PLEBISCITE VOTER REG-ISTRATION BOARD CONSISTING OF ELEVEN MEMBERS, EIGHT OF WHOM SHALL BE APPOINTED AT LARGE BY THE PLEBISCITE COMMIS-SIONER AND THREE OF WHOM SHALL BE APPOINTED FY THE PLEBI-SCITE COMMISSIONER FROM THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS OF SAIPAN, ROTA AND TINIAN TO SERVE ON THE BOARD ONLY WHEN IT ACTS AS A ECDY

OR SITS EN BANC (EN BANC UNDERLINED) ON MATTERS INVOLVING THEIR RESPECTIVE MUNICIPALITIES.

- (B) VOTERS SHALL BE REGISTERED IN THE VOTING DISTRICTS IN WHICH THEY RESIDE. THE PLEEISCITE COMMISSIONER MAY, HOWEVER, ISSUE SPECIAL REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE CENTRAL REGISTRATION OF VCTERS AND HALL ESTABLISH SPECIAL PRO-CEDURES FOR THE REGISTRATION OF VOTING OF ABSENTEE VOTERS. THE VOTER REGISTRATION SHALL BE CARRIED OUT IN THE VOTING. DISTRICTS BY PANELS OF THE VOTER BEGISTRATION BOARD CON-SISTING OF NOT LESS THAN TWO MENBERS, THEY SHALL BE JOINED EX OFFICIO (EX OFFICIO UNDERLINED) BY THE VILLACE COMMIS-SIONER OF THAT DISTRICT, OR IN THE ABSENCE OF SUCH VILLAGE

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COMMISSIONER BY ITS MAYOR. THE EX OFFICIO (EX OFFICIO UNDERLINED) MEMBERS SHALL HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE WITH THE PANELS. REGISTRATION SHALL BEGIN ON A DATE TO BE SET BY THE PLEBISCITE COMMISSIONER AND SHALL TERMINATE ON MAY 16, 1975.

- (C) THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD SHALL HAVE ALL NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT THE FOLLOWING FUNCTIONS:

- (1) IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE EX OFFICIO (EX OFFICIO UNDERLINED) MEMBERS, REGISTER ALL VOTERS QUALIFIED TO VOTE IN THE PLEBISCITE;

- (2) SITTING EN BANC (EN BANC UNDERLINED) AS AN APPELLATE REVIEW BOARD, HEAR CHALLENGES OF DECISIONS GRANTING OR DENYING REGISTRATION TO ANY PERSON; AND

- (3) CERTIFY THE FINAL VOTER REGISTRATION LIST TO THE PLEBISCITE COMMISSIONER.

- (D) DECISIONS OF THE PANELS DENYING REGISTRATION MAY BE CHALLENGED BY ANY REGISTERED VOTER. CHALLENGES MUST BE MADE WITHIN THREE WORKING DAYS AFTER THE PUBLICATION OF THE DECISION OF THE PANEL. SUCH CHALLENGES SHALL BE HEARD BY THE VOTER REGISTRATION BOARD SITTING EN BANC (EN BANC UNDERLINED). THE BOARD SHALL DECIDE ALL CHALLENGES AS EXPEDITIOUSLY AS POSSIELE. ANY CHALLENGEWHICH HAS NOT BEEN DECIDED BY THE BOARD BY MAY 23, 1975 SHALL BE DEEMED TO HAVE EEEN REJECTED. A PARTY AGGRIEVED BY A DECISION OF THE VOTER REGISTRATION BOARD SITTING EN BANC (EN BANC UNDERLINED) MAY FILE AN APPEAL FROM THAT DECISION WITH THE SPECIAL PLEBISCITE APPELLATE COURT PROVIDED FOR IN SEC. 8 OF THIS ORDER. SUCH APPEALS SHALL BE TAKEN WITHIN THREE WORKING DAYS AFTER NOTIFICATION.

SEC. 7 VOTER QUALIFICATIONS (UNDERLINED) - (A) A PERSON SHALL BE QUALIFIED TO VOTE IN THE PLEBI-SCITE IF HE IS:

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(1) A TRUST TERRITORY CITIZEN DOMICILED IN THE MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT;

(2) 18 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER ON THE DATE OF THE PLEBISCITE:

(3) AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION NOT SERVING A SENTENCE OR UNDER PAROLE OR PROBATION FOR ANY FELONY FOR WHICH HE HAS BEEN CONVICTED BY ANY COURT OF THE TRUST TERR IT OR Y:

(4) AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION NOT UNDER A JUD GE-MENT OF MENTAL INCOMPETENCY OR INSANITY; AND

(5) REGISTERED TO VOTE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRO-CEDURES ESTABLISHED BY THE PLEBISCITE COMMISSIONER.

(B) FOR PURPOSES OF THIS ORDER "DOMICILE" IS DEFINED IN THE SAME MANNER AS IN SECTION 1005(E) OF THE COVENANT: "THAT PLACE WHERE A PERSON MAINTAINS A RESIDENCE WITH THE . INTENTION OF CONTINUING SUCH RESIDENCE FOR AN UNLIMITED OR INDEFINITE PERIOD, AND TO WHICH SUCH PERSON HAS THE INTENTION OF RETURNING WHENEVER HE IS ABSENT, EVEN FOR AN EXTENDED PERIOD". IN DETERMINING WHETHER A PERSON IS DOMICILED IN THE MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT, THE BOARD SHALL TAKE INTO ACCOUNT AS OF THE TIME OF REGISTRA-TION ALL RELEVANT FACTORS INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE FOLL OW ING CRITERIA:

(1) WHETHER HE MAINTAINS A PERMANENT RESIDENCE OR FERMANENT -PLACE OF ABODE - IN A -PLACE OUT-SIDE OF THE MARIANA. ISLANDS DISTRICT; OR

(2) WHETHER HIS PRESENCE IN THE MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT IS SOLELY THE RESULT OF HIS OWN PUBLIC OF FRIVATE EMPLOYMENT OR THAT OF A PERSON ON WHOM HE IS ECONOMICALLY DE PENDENT; OR

(3) WHETHEF HE OR THE PERSON ON WHOM HE IS ECO. NOMICALLY DEPENDENT RECEIVES HOUSING OR PAY DIFFERENTIALS FOR HOUSING OR LIVING ALLOWANCES AS A CONSEQUENCE OF HIS

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SEC. 10 TERMINATION (UNDERLINED)

- THIS ORDER SHALL CONTINUE IN EFFECT ONLY UNTIL THE

COMPLETION OF THE PLEBISCITE REFERRED TO IN SEC. 1 AND IN ANY CASE SHALL TERMINATE BEFORE JANUARY 1, 1976.

- APR 10/1975 /S/ ROGERS C.B. MORTON - SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

REPARED FOR PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER. END QUOTE.

QUOTE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR - OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY - WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

## FR OCLAMATION

DESCRIBED HEREIN.

- WHEREAS, THE UNITED STATES AS ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY OF THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS HAS UNDER-TAKEN AN OBLIGATION UNDER THE TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT AND UNDER ARTICLE 76 OF THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER TO GIVE THE FEOPLES OF THE TRUST TERRITORY THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE FREELY THEIR OWN POLITICAL FUTURE; AND

- WHEREAS, BY ACT OF MAY 19, 1972, THE MARIANAS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE ESTABLISHED THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION AND PRESCRIBED ITS DUTIES TO INCLUDE NEGOTIA-TIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ON THE FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS OF THE MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT; AND

- WHEREAS, ON FEBRUARY 15, 1975 THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION AND THE PERSONAL REARDSENTATIVE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES SIGNED A COVENANT WHICH IF.

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- ATTACHED AS AN APPENDIX TO THIS ORDER, IS A PROCLAMA-TION WHICH SETS A DATE FOR AND CALLS A PLEBISCITE IN THE MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT RELEVANT TO THE COVENANT DESCRIBED HEREIN.

SEC. 10 TERMINATION (UNDERLINED)

- THIS ORDER SHALL CONTINUE IN EFFECT ONLY UNTIL THE

COMPLETION OF THE PLEBISCITE REFERRED TO IN SEC. 1 AND IN ANY CASE SHALL TERMINATE BEFORE JANUARY 1, 1976.

- APR 10 1975

/S/ ROGERS C.B. MORTON SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

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QUOTE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR - OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY - WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

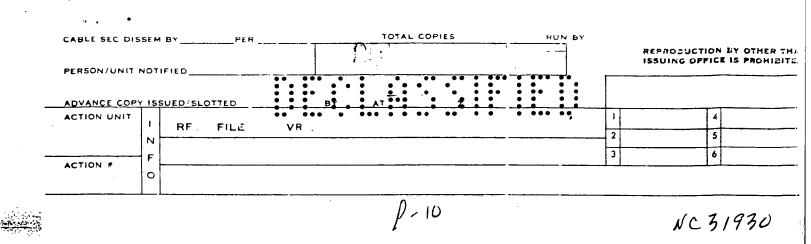
FR OCLAMATION

- WHEREAS, THE UNITED STATES AS ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY OF THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS HAS UNDER-TAKEN AN OBLIGATION UNDER THE TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT AND UNDER ARTICLE 76 OF THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER TO GIVE THE PEOPLES OF THE TRUST TERRITORY THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE FREELY THE IR OWN POLITICAL FUTURE; AND

- WHEREAS, BY ACT OF MAY 19, 1972, THE MARIANAS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE ESTABLISHED THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION AND PRESCAIBED ITS DUTIES TO INCLUDE NEGOTIA-TIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ON THE FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS OF THE MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT; AND

POLITICAL STATUS OF THE MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT; AND - WHEREAS, ON FEBRUARY 15, 1975 THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION AND THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES SIGNED A COVENANT WHICH IF

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APPROVED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT AND THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES, WOULD, UPON TERMINA-TION OF THE TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED NATIONS, ESTABLISH A COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS IN POLITICAL UNION WITH THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA; AND

- WHEREAS, THIS SIGNING MARKED THE CONCLUSION OF NEGO-TIATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES AFTER MORE THAN TWENTY YEARS OF EFFORTS BY THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS THROUGH PUBLIC PETITION AND REFERENDUM 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 RE-QUESTED 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 EXEC-UTIVE ORDER 11021 OF JULY 1, 1962 AND WITH THE CONCURRENCE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE, DO HEREBY CALL FOR A PLEBISCITE TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, JUNE 17, 1975 THROUGHOUT THE MARI-ANA ISLANDS-DISTRICT TO PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS TO DECIDE PLR SUANT TO THE IR RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION, WHETHER THEY WISH TO BECOME A COMMONWEALTH OF THE UNITED STATES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS OF THE COVENANT SIGNED ON FEBRUARY 15, 1975

- THE PLEBISCITE WILL BE HELD IN A FAIR AND IMPARTIAL MANNER UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF A PLEBISCITE COMMISSIONER APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. - THE BALL OT TO BE PRESENTED IN THE PLEBISCITE SHALL BE AS FOLLOWS:

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() YES - I VOTE FOR COMMONWEALTH AS SET FORTH IN THE COVENANT TO ESTABLISH A COMMON-WEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS IN POLITICAL UNION WITH THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

() NO - I VOTE AGAINST COMMONWEALTH IN POLITI-CAL UNION WITH THE UNITED STATES AS SET FORTH IN THE COVENANT RECOG-NIZING THAT, IF COMMONWEALTH IS REJECTED, THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS WILL REMAIN AS A DISTRICT OF THE TRUST TERRITORY WITH THE RIGHT TO PARTICI-PATE WITH THE OTHER DISTRICTS IN THE DETERMINATION OF AN ALTERNATIVE FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS.

- IN RECOGNITION OF THE HISTORIC IMPORTANCE OF THIS ACT OF SELF-DETERMINATION, I DECLARE THAT THE DAY OF THE PLEB-ISCITE SHALL BE A PUBLIC HOLIDAY IN THE MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT AND THE HIGH COMMISSIONER SHALL GIVE ADMINISTRA-TIVE LEAVE TO ALL TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES IN SAID DISTRICT.

- OBSERVERS FROM THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES WILL BE WELCOME TO WITNESS THE PLEBI-SCITE AS WELL AS THE PLEBISCITE EDUCATION PROGRAM, THE REGISTRATION OF VOTERS, AND OTHER PRE-PLEBISCITE ACTIVI-TIES. SUCH OBSERVERS WILL BE PROVIDED ALL NECESSARY ASSISTANCE.

- I HAVE TODAY ISSUED SECRETARIAL ORDER NO. 2973 WHICH DEFINES THE AUTHORITY AND PROCEDURES FOR HOLDING THE REBISCITE FOR THE MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE UNITED STATES AS ADMIN-ISTERING AUTHORITY UNDER THE TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT OF JULY 18, 1947 BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

/S/ ROGERS D.B.

MORTON

- APR 10 1975

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