

*Press Release*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - JULY 2, 1975

Washington - Rep. Phillip Burton (D-Calif.), Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Territorial and Insular Affairs today announced a public hearing to be held in Washington on Monday, July 14 to receive testimony and act upon the proposed Covenant to establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in political union with the United States.

The Covenant, a product of almost three years of negotiations between the Marianas Political Status Commission and the United States Government, was signed by the two parties on February 15, 1975. Subsequently, it was unanimously approved by the District Legislature of the Northern Mariana Islands. On June 17, 1975, in a United Nations observed plebiscite in which 95% of the people participated, a majority of 78.8% of the voters approved the Covenant.

"The next step of the process will be the review of and action on the Covenant by the United States Congress," Chairman Burton stated.

The hearing will be held in Room 1324 Longworth House Office Building and will begin at 10:00 a.m. Anyone wishing to testify in person should contact the Subcommittee (202/225-9297) no later than noon Friday, July 11th. Witnesses are required to present copies of their prepared testimony to the Subcommittee prior to the hearing. Persons wishing to submit testimony for the hearing Record may do so up to and including July 14.

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