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TESTIFYING JULY 14, 1975, BEFORE THE HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON
TERRITORIAL AFFAIRS:

1. Hon. Vicente N. Santos, President, District Legislature
2. Edward G. Pangelinan, Chairman, MPSC
3. Sen. Pedro A. Tenorio, Chairman of the Marianas Delegation
to the Congress of Micronesia
4. J. R. Cruz, Tinian Island
5. Joannes R. Taimanao, Rota Island
6. Dr. Francisco T. Palacios - Territorial Party
7. Herman Q. Guerrero - Popular Party
8. Manual A. Sablan - MPSC
9. Joaquin S. Torres, Councilman, Saipan Municipal Council
10. Hon. Francisco C. Ada, Mariana Islands District Administrator
11. Hon. Jose A. Benitez - Friend of the people of the Marianas

Final

Vicente T. Camacho, Speaker,

STATEMENT OF HONORABLE ~~JOAQUIN S. TORRES,~~
SAIPAN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
BEFORE THE ~~HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON TERRITORIAL AFFAIRS~~
Senate July 14, 1975 Interior + Insular Affairs

Mr. Chairman and distinguished members of this Subcommittee, my name is ~~Joaquin S. Torres~~ *Vicente T. Camacho* and I am appearing today on behalf of the Saipan Municipal Council to urge your speedy approval of the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

I bring warm greetings from the people of the Municipality of Saipan, the Mayor, the Honorable Vicente D. Sablan, ~~our Speaker, who is here with us today,~~ and my colleagues in the 25th Saipan Municipal Council, which is a legally constituted entity which has played a major and vital supportive role in our long quest to attain a long-desired goal to become a part of this great country of yours — the United States of America.

The support of the people of Saipan and their duly elected representatives to which I have alluded above is now a matter of history. Even before the Municipality of Saipan was chartered there was an expression of our desire to become a part of the American political family by our predecessor — the House of High Council and the House of Commissioners.

Recently, the Council reaffirmed all prior expressions of support when it unanimously adopted a resolution during its March, 1975 regular session endorsing the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America. The Municipal Council's decision to endorse the Covenant now before you was not arbitrary, but one which was made after due consideration of the document and its future implications.

The term "self-determination" is meaningless unless men give it meaning. Mr. Chairman and distinguished members of this ~~Sub~~committee, on June 17, 1975, the people of Saipan whom I am representing today, in the free exercise of their God-given right to determine their destiny, voted overwhelmingly to be a part of the greatest nation on earth. Your action on the Covenant will determine the course of our destiny — and the attainment of a dream conceived more than a quarter of a century ago.

Thank you.

STATEMENT OF HONORABLE JOAQUIN S. TORRES,
SAIPAN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
BEFORE THE HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON TERRITORIAL AFFAIRS
July 14, 1975

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Thank you.

STATEMENT OF HERMAN Q. GUERRERO,
PRESIDENT, MARIANAS POPULAR PARTY,
BEFORE THE HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON TERRITORIAL AFFAIRS
July 14, 1975

Mr. Chairman and honorable members of this Subcommittee, I am very appreciative of being invited to make a statement on the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

I am appearing here today as the President of the Marianas Popular Party and in full support of the swift passage of the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. For the information of the Committee, I would like to take a brief moment to explain about our political party. It is one of the two political parties that exist in the Marianas District, which was established in 1961, with a total active membership of approximately 2500. As indicated in the letter of invitation, my testimony this morning will attempt to outline the position of our organization with regard to the political status for the people of the Northern Mariana Islands. At the outset, let me say that our membership fully supports the negotiated Covenant which was endorsed by the Mariana Islands District Legislature on February 20, 1975, and subsequently on June 17, 1975, was overwhelmingly approved by the voters of our district.

This was not a decision made in haste — rather, our political party gave careful consideration to the

various alternative forms of government that were available to the people before choosing to seek membership in the American political family. All of our people, both young and old, cherish the principles on which the American system is based — freedom and opportunity for all without regard to race, creed, color or national origin.

Our domination by foreign powers such as Spain, Germany and Japan has given us ample opportunity to make value judgments on the relative advantages, benefits and disadvantages of the various systems of government. For the past 28 years, my generation has had an opportunity to experience first hand the operations of the American system of government, and we feel that it is best suited to our needs, desires and aspirations.

Hence, the solemn expression made by our people on June 17, 1975, was the manifested desire of our people for a close and enduring relationship with the United States of America. The determination manifested in the June 17th Plebiscite reaffirmed the long-expressed wishes of our people which began in the 1950's and continued to the present. Expressions through referenda, petitions and resolutions that were regularly adopted, almost on an annual basis, were directed for consideration of the United States Government and information to the United Nations. The ardent desire for a permanent affiliation with the United

States was, in fact, the main reason that political parties were formed in the Mariana Islands. But any division that existed between the two political parties was only on the method of achieving that objective.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, I wish to again express my deep appreciation for having the opportunity to present to you the views of my political party on the Covenant to Establish the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, and your speedy approval of that document will be hailed by our people.

Thank you.

STATEMENT OF DR. FRANCISCO T. PALACIOS
BEFORE THE HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON TERRITORIAL AFFAIRS
July 14, 1975

Mr. Chairman, I am Francisco T. Palacios, a member of the Marianas Political Status Commission, the President of the Territorial Party of the Marianas, and I am rightful traditional leader by inheritance to the Falsou State House of a Carolinian community. I am pleased to testify today at your invitation to share with this Subcommittee our feelings on our future political status aspiration.

I will address my remarks primarily to political education programs in the Northern Marianas before the June 17, 1975 plebiscite in which almost 80% of the people voted in favor of political union with the United States.

Since the establishment of the Marianas Political Status Commission in 1972, political education has been a significant part of our daily lives in the Marianas. There have been extensive publications, meetings, disseminations on radio and television, and individual discussions at the grass roots level. We are not a large population and we are not a large area. I dare say there is not an individual within the Marianas who is not aware of the political developments and that there is not an individual within the Marianas who has not been given ample opportunity to participate fully in the interchange of ideas concerning our future political status.

After the signing of the Covenant on February 15, 1975, the efforts toward the political education of the people of the Northern Marianas intensified and developed to a point of complete dissemination of all relevant material representing both pro and con viewpoints. The Covenant was disseminated throughout the Marianas in three languages, English, Chamorro and Carolinian. In addition to that, the Marianas Political Status Commission developed a weekly publication, the Covenant Newsletter. In addition to the Covenant Newsletter, there were detailed discussions each week on radio of the various areas of the Covenant that are discussed in the newsletter. This radio dissemination was also in three languages. It covered the Covenant itself and the section-by-section analysis as presented in the newsletter. Additionally, the radio afforded equal time to all interested parties to present their views about and analysis of the Covenant.

In addition to the efforts of the Marianas Political Status Commission that obviously favored adoption of the Covenant and the opposite viewpoint as presented by individuals within the Marianas community who have taken a different approach, the Plebiscite Commissioner, Edwin Canham, developed an independent political education program for the people of the Marianas. This program enhanced and supplemented the information disseminated to the people of the Marianas

on all aspects of the Covenant and how it will relate to the people.

There was a time when I was very concerned that we should proceed slowly with this Covenant that is now about to be voted on. I was concerned with the possibility that the people of the Marianas were not being supplied with sufficient educational background and material to allow them to make an intelligent decision on this most serious issue to ever be presented to the people of the Marianas. However, the political education program that has been developed in the Marianas through the Marianas Political Status Commission, its opponents, and the Plebiscite Commissioner convinced me that we had a comprehensive and fully adequate political education program. We are convinced that the people of the Marianas have been given the most complete political education program possible. We feel that it is a credit to our hoped-for future relationship with the United States that the United States itself has been extremely careful in its involvement in the political education program. There was no attempt on the part of any of the negotiators for the United States to interfere or unduly influence the political education program in any way.

Mr. Chairman, our relationship with the United States goes back to 1944. As soon as our islands were secured from hostility, with great loss of life among the Americans

as well as among the innocent islands, the United States established social-economic justice and political advancement. From the onset of the U.S. administration as Trustee of our islands, the U.S. undertook the policy of social and economic justice, and encouraged a democratic form of government. From 1947 to this day the United States administration patiently tutored our people to take advantage of the available education and economic opportunity, and to exploit our resources. The United States administration never imposed any policy that was detrimental to our people. Rather, with patience and understanding, the United States of America guided us slowly towards self-liberation from social-economic injustice and political tyranny of the outdated colonial form of government.

In the final analysis the U.S. has, with our participation and consent, helped us avoid many of the social, economic and political evils which plague the world. Under the United States tutorship we have recaptured our human dignity and basic rights. Today, justice and freedom are realities on our islands in all sectors of our community. For these reasons, and many others, the United States of America has gained our love and respect. Therefore we freely expressed our aspirations on June 17th of this year to join the United States political family as provided in the Covenant.

Mr. Chairman, we are only about 14,000 people on small islands in the Western Pacific — we have little to offer the United States except our love and loyalty to the Constitution and the American ideals. If we are accepted into your country we shall be but the proudest American citizens during the Bicentennial celebration of the birth of your country and thereafter.

Mr. Chairman, I am humbly gratified by the opportunity your Committee accorded me to share with you our political aspirations. Thank you and MAY GOD BLESS AMERICA.

STATEMENT OF JOSE R. CRUZ
BEFORE THE HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON TERRITORIAL AFFAIRS
July 14, 1975

Mr. Chairman, I am Jose R. Cruz, a member of the Marianas Political Status Commission from Tinian. I join with my colleagues in expressing my gratitude for this opportunity to appear before the Subcommittee. I will address my remarks to the views of the people I represent — the people of Tinian — about the Covenant and particularly about land and military requirements in the Northern Marianas.

The views of the people of Tinian about the Covenant were expressed clearly and finally in the free and democratic vote in the plebiscite. Over 2/3 of the voters on Tinian supported the Covenant — a gratifying vote to those of us who had long desired Commonwealth and a strong showing of support from the island which may be called upon to make available a large portion of its land for defense purposes, if the U.S. Congress believes it necessary. The vote on Tinian in favor of the Covenant came after a full and complete political education program which provided all sides of the argument to the people.

Obviously, the question of future land needs of the United States for defense purposes was an important matter to those of us on Tinian. The Covenant provides that the

United States may — but need not — use land on Tinian for defense purposes. I want to emphasize that approval of the Covenant is in no way a commitment by the United States to build a base, today, tomorrow or ever. A base could only be built if you — the members of Congress — specifically provide the money to build it. The Covenant simply gives the U.S. the option to use land on Tinian for a base. Whether you will decide to do so or not, of course, is not for us to judge.

Rather, we in the Marianas have, by approving the Covenant, justly recognized that the United States has certain responsibilities for the maintenance of peace and security in the western Pacific. We have recognized further that, as a member of the American political family, the Marianas will have certain obligations to assist the United States in meeting its defense requirements. The people throughout the Marianas well understand these points. We have consulted with the people often and widely concerning United States land requirements. On Tinian, these matters have been especially discussed, since, under the Covenant, the United States will obtain the right to lease approximately 7,203 hectares for military purposes.

Generally, the people of Tinian, like those elsewhere in the Marianas, recognize that there are very significant benefits to a close relationship with the United States,

and that these benefits entail certain obligations as well. As a member of the Pacific community, as a people which have been ravaged by war within the memory of every person here, we cannot say too strongly that peace must reign in the Pacific and that war must never again destroy our islands. For this reason we are willing to make our contribution to the United States, which promises to keep the peace, as our share in the maintenance of peace and security in the Pacific. Only if there is peace can the political freedom and economic development which our people desire be secured.

We believe very strongly, Mr. Chairman, in the essential justice of the terms of the Covenant for both the U.S. and the Marianas. We also believe that the important political aspects of the Covenant — local self-government, individual freedom, U.S. citizenship — must be kept separate from the defense aspects. We in the Marianas desire Commonwealth for its political and other advantages. We are prepared, if our government — the U.S. Government — believes it necessary, to make land available for a base. That is all the Covenant does.

We ask you to approve the Covenant so that our hopes and dreams of being part of the American political family can be fulfilled.

God bless this Congress. God bless America. My future country to which our loyalty and love are pledged. Thank you.

STATEMENT OF JOANNES RAMOS TAIMANAO
BEFORE THE HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON TERRITORIAL AFFAIRS
July 14, 1975

I am Joannes Ramos Taimanao, a member of the Marianas Political Status Commission representing the people of Rota in the Northern Marianas Archipelago. I am indeed most happy and honored to be accorded this great privilege and opportunity to appear before this honorable and distinguished body to testify on behalf of the people of Rota in support of the Covenant.

Our Mayor, Honorable Antonio Ca. Ataliq, has written a letter to the Congress endorsing the Covenant as well.

As one of the representatives on the Marianas Political Status Commission from Rota, it was my obligation to ascertain the views of the people of Rota relative to their desired political status. Without exception, I was advised that the people of Rota desired a close and permanent political relationship with the United States of America. Also, at the conclusion of each round of negotiations, the people of Rota were fully advised and

informed about the subject matter before them and their further advice and consent was solicited by me and my colleague in the Commission.

Therefore, when 98% of the people of Rota voted in favor of the Covenant on June 17, 1975, it was truly an informed decision.

The people of Rota cherish and regard with high respect the principles and doctrines of the United States where human rights are respected and the rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness are guaranteed.

Our proximity to the United States Territory of Guam, some 39 miles away, has afforded us an excellent opportunity to see, first hand, and experience the American system of government. Already, nearly 75 of our citizens have acquired United States citizenship on Guam over the past 20 years.

The people of Rota fully realize that United States citizenship carries obligations and responsibilities as well as benefits, and are ready, willing and able to accept these obligations and responsibilities as a part of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, I wish to have the record show that we the people of Rota love the United

States of America and would welcome your quick and speedy approval of the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Thank you.

STATEMENT OF HONORABLE VICENTE N. SANTOS,
PRESIDENT, MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE
BEFORE THE HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON TERRITORIAL AFFAIRS
July 14, 1975

Mr. Chairman and members of the House Subcommittee on Territorial and Insular Affairs, it is indeed an honor and pleasure for me to appear before you today in behalf of the members of the Mariana Islands District Legislature in support of speedy and favorable Congressional action on the Covenant to Establish the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas that was executed on February 15, 1975 by Ambassador Franklin Haydn Williams representing the United States of America, and members of the Marianas Political Status Commission, representing the people of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This historic event was a culmination of nearly twenty years of expressions by the people of the Northern Marianas to achieve a permanent relationship with the United States of America.

Beginning with the end of World War II, the basic foundation of democracy was planted in the Marianas by the United States of America. Ever since that time, we in the Northern Marianas have enjoyed the full benefits of a free and democratic society.

Thus, one of the basic obligations of the United States under provisions of the Trusteeship Agreement with

the United Nations, which states in part:

". . . to promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the inhabitants of the Trust Territories, and their progressive development towards self-government or independence as may be appropriate to the particular circumstances of each territory and its people and the freely expressed wishes of the people concerned. . ."

has been fully achieved, and we in the Northern Marianas are fully prepared to accept the responsibility for full internal self-government. This was shown by the 78.8% vote in favor of the Covenant to Establish the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas on June 17, 1975.

It is important to understand that the expressed desire of our people to become a part of the American political family began soon after the Saipan Municipal Council was established in 1948.

By 1969 the sentiment had grown to the point that, pursuant to a petition of the Mariana Islands District Legislature, a special poll was held on a district-wide basis. This poll set out a series of choices for the people and after full and free discussions all registered voters were asked to cast a secret ballot. The result confirmed the fact that the majority of the people want a permanent association with the United States of America. Since 1969, numerous village town-hall type meetings, particularly during the status negotiations, were held throughout the District and they reconfirm and in fact more strongly indicate the desire of the

people for permanent association with the United States. And, of course, the June 17, 1975 plebiscite, under U.N. supervision, confirms this.

In addition, since the creation of the Mariana Islands District Legislature in 1963, the people of the Mariana Islands District have expressed their political desire to become a permanent part of the United States in a series of resolutions:

Resolution 2 (1963) passed on August 5, 1963, requested the United States to conduct a plebiscite on the political future of the Mariana Islands District.

Resolution 3 (1963) also passed on August 5, 1963, requested the United States to reconsider the petition requesting the reunification of the Mariana Islands with Guam.

Resolution 22 (1964), passed on February 10, 1964, requested the Trusteeship Council to reconsider the petition that was enacted by the Saipan Municipal Legislature, relative to the reintegration of the Mariana Islands, directly under the Doctrine of Human Rights, and in consonance with the objective of the United Nations policy in the international Declaration of Human Rights.

Resolution 56 (1965), passed on August 23, 1965, requested the Legislature of the Territory of Guam to request the United States Congress to amend the Organic Act of the Territory of Guam to extend the boundaries of that United

States Territory to include the islands of the Mariana Islands District.

Resolution 4 (1967), passed February 10, 1967, requested the Trusteeship Council to urge the Administering Authority to take concrete steps to prepare the people for self-determination and to set a deadline for a plebiscite in the Mariana Islands District.

Resolution 7 (1967), passed on February 10, 1967, requested the Administering Authority to unify the Mariana Islands District with the Territory of Guam as a Territory of the Marianas in consonance with the objective of the United Nations policy under the Declaration of Human Rights.

Resolution 4 (1968), passed on January 19, 1968, requested the Administering Authority to grant United States citizenship to the people of the Mariana Islands District and to permit the reunification of the Mariana Islands District with the Territory of Guam.

Resolution 27 (1969), passed on February 26, 1969, created a Select Committee to continue the study of the reunification of the Mariana Islands District within the governmental framework of the Territory of Guam and of the methods available for bringing about such reunification.

Resolution 13 (1969), passed on August 25, 1969, authorized the President of the Mariana Islands District Legislature to appoint a Plebiscite Committee to hold public meetings throughout the Mariana Islands District to explain

to the people the purposes of the district-wide plebiscite to be held in November, 1969.

Resolution 13 (1970), passed on February 18, 1970, requested the Trusteeship Council to effect the immediate reunification of the Mariana Islands District with the Territory of Guam as is envisioned under the Doctrine of Human Rights, and in consonance with the objectives of the United Nations adherence to its International Declaration of Human Rights.

Resolution 12 (1970), passed on August 21, 1970, endorsed the proposal of the Administering Authority to establish a Commonwealth of Micronesia and urged that the Administering Authority submit that Commonwealth proposal to the people of the Mariana Islands District for endorsement and to proceed with its implementation in the Marianas until the people of the other districts are ready to decide their future political status.

Resolution 11 (1970), passed August 20, 1970, extended an invitation to the Administering Authority to meet and discuss with the Mariana Islands District Legislature the proposal to establish a Commonwealth of Micronesia.

Resolution 13 (1970), passed on August 24, 1970, requested the Trusteeship Council to recognize the cultural differences between the districts of the Trust Territory and to allow each district to choose its own political future.

Resolution 30 (1971), passed on February 19, 1971, advised the Security Council and the Trusteeship Council of the United Nations that the Mariana Islands District will secede from the Trust Territory by force of arms if necessary.

District Law No. 3-124 (May 19, 1972), created the Marianas Political Status Commission.

Resolution 76-1975, passed on February 20, 1975, unanimously approved the Covenant on behalf of the District Legislature.

I respectfully request that copies of certain of these resolutions be inserted in the record of these hearings.

Thus, you can clearly see that our decision to join the American political family is not a hasty one. Our untiring devotion towards the fulfillment of our people's dream to be a member of the American political family hopefully will not be in vain.

In the spirit of the understanding reached with representatives of the United States Government, the people of the Northern Marianas have made their choice. While the people of the Northern Marianas have endorsed the Commonwealth Covenant, we fully realize that the final decision is not ours alone to make. Before our hopes, prayers and life-long desires can be realized, this Covenant must be approved by the United States Congress. Hence, our future is in your hands and we respectfully urge your swift and favorable approval of this Covenant.

STATEMENT OF MANUEL A. SABLAN
BEFORE THE HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON TERRITORIAL AFFAIRS
July 14, 1975

I am Manuel A. Sablan, member of the Marianas Political Status Commission representing the business community of Saipan. I am honored to have this opportunity to appear before this august body. My statement will focus on Article VII of the Covenant which deals specifically with the United States financial assistance to the Marianas. I intend to highlight the major provisions of Article VII, with emphasis on the economic significance of such assistance to the people of the Northern Marianas.

The underlying objective of the United States financial commitment is two-pronged: (1) to assist the government of the Northern Marianas to achieve a progressively higher standard of living as a part of the American economic community, and (2) to help the Government of the Northern Marianas to develop the economic resources needed to meet the financial responsibility of local self-government.

With respect to the first part of this objective, the people of the Northern Marianas attach great importance to the basic principles of the American political and economic system, and look towards a political union with the United States which would allow them to participate fully in the American political and economic community. The financial assistance which the United States will provide will allow a higher standard of living for the people of the Northern

Marianas. It is envisaged that such financial assistance will accelerate economic growth substantially, thereby providing the opportunity for the people of the Marianas to attain a standard of living comparable to that of the United States.

A point that needs greater emphasis is the fact that the U.S. financial assistance was based on the need for the Government of the Northern Marianas to expand its financial base to support expanded governmental operations, to fund the establishment of needed economic and physical infrastructure and to help trigger economic growth in the private sector.

It is worthy to note also that the funds which the United States will provide will be adequately accounted for, and will not be expended except for the purposes intended in the Covenant. To ensure that the funds will be used effectively and efficiently, there will be a comprehensive social and economic plan developed immediately after approval of the Covenant by the U.S. This will permit the Government of the Northern Marianas to establish development priorities and to use the funds effectively.

The United States is to provide these funds as direct assistance. This means that the Government of the Northern Marianas will be able to determine the precise project on which the funds will be used. Also this will give

the Government of the Northern Marianas the opportunity to decide, for the first time in its political history, on the allocation of these funds, within the general purposes set forth in the Covenant. Stated another way, the Government of the Northern Marianas will direct the use of these funds to areas in which the people of the Northern Marianas determine it can do the most good.

The total direct financial assistance from the United States provided for in the Covenant is \$14.0 million per year for the initial seven-year period. This is broken down into government operations, \$8.25 million, capital improvements, \$4.0 million, and economic development, \$1.75 million. Attached to my prepared statement is a chart showing this assistance. These figures were based on the expert views as to the minimum needs of the Marianas of independent economic consultants and U.S. Government economists. In addition, the Marianas will, like the territories, be eligible for U.S. grants-in-aid and federal programs with an estimated value of \$3.0 million. Finally, if the U.S. Congress and Executive decide to lease land in the Marianas, an additional sum would be received, up to a total of almost \$20 million (in a one-time lump sum payment) if all the land covered by the Covenant is leased.

The ultimate goal of the Marianas people and the U.S. Government in the economic area is the economic

self-sufficiency of the Northern Marianas. We look forward to the day when our economy is solid and productive, and we do not need direct federal assistance. The Covenant provides for a review of the Marianas' needs at the conclusion of the guaranteed seven-year period of assistance. The amounts provided are, we believe, fair, but, at the same time, the minimum amounts needed to provide the opportunity for economic self-sufficiency at levels generally comparable to that of other Americans.

Thank you.

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

<u>Purpose</u>	<u>7-year period</u>	<u>yearly average</u>
Government Operation	\$57.75 million	\$8.25 million
Capital Improvement Program	28.0 million	4.0 million
Economic Development	12.25 million	1.75 million
	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL	<u>\$98.0 million</u>	<u>\$14.0 million</u>

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INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT OF EDWARD ~~E.~~ PANGELINAN
BEFORE THE HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON TERRITORIAL AFFAIRS
July 14, 1975

Mr. Chairman and Distinguished Members of the Subcommittee:

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I am Edward ~~E.~~ Pangelinan, Chairman of the Marianas Political Status Commission. It is my privilege on behalf of the delegation from the Marianas to extend to you and the members of the Subcommittee our warm greetings and Hafa Adai from the people of the Marianas and to extend to you our appreciation for your invitation to appear before this Subcommittee to testify in support of the Joint Resolution to approve the "Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America," and for other purposes.

With your permission, I would like to take a short moment to introduce to you and the members of the Subcommittee the delegation from the Marianas. From the Marianas Islands District Legislature, I wish to introduce Vicente N. Santos, President of the Marianas Islands District Legislature, and his colleagues from the Legislature, Juan L. G. Cabrera, Vice President, Francisco M. Diaz, Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, Santiago Magofna, Legislative Secretary, Lorenzo Guerrero, Minority Leader, Daniel Muna, Chairman, Political Committee, and William B. Nabors, Legislative Counsel. From the Marianas Political Status Commission, it is my pleasure

to introduce Messrs. Manual A. Sablan, Jose R. Cruz and Joannes R. Taimanao, and Michael S. Helfer, Counsel to the Commission. From the political parties, I wish to introduce Dr. Francisco T. Palacios, President of the Territorial Party, and Mr. Herman Q. Guerrero, President of the Popular Party. From the Congress of Micronesia representing the Marianas delegation to that body is Senator Pedro A. Tenorio. From the Saipan Municipal Council, we have Speaker Vicente T. Camacho, and Councilman Joaquin S. Torres. We are delighted that our Mariana Islands District Administrator, the Honorable Francisco C. Ada, is also accompanying the delegation to this hearing. We are also fortunate to have two lovely ladies representing the Ladies Association of Saipan, Dulce G. Pangelinan and Lucia A. Guerrero. We are also pleased to introduce to you an old friend of the people of the Marianas, the former Deputy High Commissioner of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, the Honorable Jose A. Benitez.

For your information, Mr. Chairman, ten members of the delegation ^{have prepared statements for} ~~will be testifying before~~ the Subcommittee, and the rest of the members will be available to respond to any question that any members of the Subcommittee may wish to address to our delegation. The first to testify is the Hon. Vicente N. Santos, President of the District Legislature. Then I will testify, to be followed by Senator Pedro A. Tenorio of the Congress of Micronesia, ^{and Dr. Francisco Palacios.} ~~to be followed by Mr.~~

Mr. J. R. Cruz from Tinian, Mr. Joannes R. Taimanao from Rota,

to be followed by ~~Dr. Francisco T. Palacios~~, Mr. Herman Q. Guerrero, Mr. Manuel A. Sablan, to be followed by Councilman Joaquin S. Torres, and followed by our District Administrator, the Hon. Francisco C. Ada, We would also like to invite, with your permission, Mr. Benitez to make a short statement as a friend of the delegation.

These statements that we request be put into the record.