

MARIANAS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE RESOLUTION 106-1975

~~Nov 11, 1975~~
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INTRODUCED BY: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

A RESOLUTION RESPECTFULLY URGING THE UNITED STATES SENATE TO TAKE PROMPT ACTION ON THE JOINT RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COVENANT TO ESTABLISH THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS IN POLITICAL UNION WITH THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

WHEREAS, the Charter of the United Nations and the Trusteeship Agreement between the United Nations and the United States of America require that the inhabitants of the Trust Territory be promoted toward self-government or independence as may be appropriate to the particular circumstances; and

WHEREAS, for the past 400 years the people of the Mariana Islands have lived under the autocratic rules of foreign powers without the right to speak out on the important matters which faced them, such as the nature of their government, the development of their economy and their future political destiny; and

WHEREAS, the coming of the United States in the Marianas under the auspices of the United Nations Trusteeship ushers in a new era for the people of the Mariana Islands and introduces the spirit and principles of democracy, the Bill of Rights and the ideals which have sustained the United States for almost 200 years; and

WHEREAS, the United States Administration of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands has brought to the people of the Marianas economic development, education, health care and political maturity and has taught the people how to live as free men and women; and

WHEREAS, the people of the Mariana Islands have over the past twenty years or more expressed their fervent desire and aspiration to join the United States of America in a close and permanent political relationship; and

WHEREAS, the future political status desired by the people of the Mariana Islands District is far different from that which has been chosen by the people of the other districts of the Trust Territory as expressed by their representatives in the Congress of Micronesia; and

WHEREAS, it has been repeatedly recognized within the Mariana Islands District, in the other districts of the Trust Territory and within the United Nations that the people of the Mariana Islands District desired a political status different from that desired by the people of the other districts of the Trust Territory; and

WHEREAS, in May 1972 the Mariana Islands District Legislature created the Marianas Political Status Commission, which consisted of representatives of all of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the desires of the people, the Mariana Islands District Legislature instructed the Marianas Political Status Commission to negotiate with the United States concerning the terms of a close, permanent and enduring political relationship between the United States and the Northern Mariana Islands; and

WHEREAS, over the past three years the President's Personal Representative and the people of the Marianas conducted political status negotiations which culminated in the signing of a Covenant to Establish the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, on June 17, 1975 in a free and democratically held plebiscite, the people of the Marianas voted overwhelmingly 78.8 percent to approve the said Covenant; and

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WHEREAS, approval of the Covenant by the United States Congress will fulfill the inalienable and sovereign right of self-determination by the people of the Mariana Islands District and conclusively fulfilling their desire for a close and permanent political relationship with the United States; and

WHEREAS, in the Covenant, specific provisions are included to enable the people of the Mariana Islands District to formulate and adopt their own Constitution and to undertake certain essential transitional studies and programs toward self-government which are all contingent upon approval of the Covenant by the Congress of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Covenant has been favorably acted upon by the House of Representatives, United States Congress and the United States Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs; and

WHEREAS, in order not to delay the establishment of the Constitutional Government of the Marianas that has been sought by the people thereof for more than a quarter of a century, prompt action on the passage of the Joint Resolution to approve the "Covenant to Establish the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America" without delay will be in the best interest of all concerned;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Fourth Mariana Islands District Legislature, Seventh Regular Session, that the United States Senate is hereby respectfully urged and requested to take prompt and favorable action on the Joint Resolution to approve the "Covenant to Establish the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America"; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President certify to and the Legislative Secretary attest the adoption hereof and thereafter transmit a copy of this resolution to the Chairman and members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the President and the members of the United States Senate.

PASSED BY THE FOURTH MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE, NOVEMBER 11, 1975

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