

Jan 17, 1976

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A SENATE JOINT 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.

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

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

11 WHEREAS, the coming of the United States to the Marianas under the
12 auspices of the United Nations Trusteeship ushered in a new era for the
13 people of the Mariana Islands and introduced the spirit and principles
14 of democracy, the Bill of Rights and the ideals which have sustained
15 the United States for almost 200 years; and

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

20 WHEREAS, the people of the Mariana Islands have over the past 20
21 years or more expressed their fervent desire and aspiration to join the
22 United States of America in a close and permanent political relationship;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, the future political status desired by the people of the
25 Mariana Islands District is far different from that which has been chosen

1 by the people of the other districts of the Trust Territory as expressed
2 by their representatives in the Congress of Micronesia; and

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

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

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

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

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

24 WHEREAS, approval of the Covenant by the United States Congress will
25 fulfill the inalienable and sovereign right of self-determination by the

1 people of the Mariana Islands District and conclusively fulfilling their
2 desire for a close and permanent political relationship with the United
3 States; and

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

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

12 WHEREAS, Representatives of the Congress of Micronesia in testimonies
13 before the United States Senate Foreign Relations Committee supported the
14 desire of the Marianas people as embodied in the Covenant; and

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

22 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Congress of Micronesia, Second
23 Regular Session, 1976, the House of Representatives concurring, that the
24 United States Senate is hereby respectfully urged and requested to take
25 prompt and favorable action on the Joint Resolution to approve the

1 "Covenant to Establish the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
2 in Political Union with the United States of America"; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Senate Joint
4 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States of
5 America, the President of the United States Senate, the Chairman and
6 members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and Chairman and members
7 of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

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9 Date: 1/17/76

Introduced by: Pedro A. Tenorio
Pedro A. Tenorio

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