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First new territory since 1917

Senate passes Marianas covenant

Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — The Senate yesterday approved the first territorial acquisition by the United States since 1917 as it passed, 67 to 22, legislation establishing a commonwealth of the Northern Marianas in the Pacific. The islands

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would have local self-government, but their defense and foreign policy would be completely under Washington control.

The Northern Marianas — principally Saipan, Tinian and Rota — now are part of a trusteeship created by the United Nations after World War II and administered by the United States.

The bill now goes to a House-Senate conference for adjustment of minor differences in the version of the Marianas bill already passed by the House.

Both of Hawaii's Senators, Hiram L. Fong and Daniel K. Inouye, voted in favor of the Marianas covenant.

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