

### *Marianas Now Part of U.S.*

Associated Press

President Ford signed a measure yesterday giving self-governing commonwealth status to 21 northern Marianas islands in the western Pacific, the scene of bitter fighting during World War II. It was the first time in 31 years that the United States has acquired new territory.

The Marianas, part of Micronesia, have been administered by the United States since World War II under U.N. trusteeship. The covenant makes the Marianas, with a population of 145,000, a self-governing commonwealth under the sovereignty of the United States, a status resembling that of Puerto Rico.

---