

Resolution No. 367

Introduced by _____
J. T. Sablan

Relative to requesting Congress of the United States to cause the political re-integration of the Marianas Islands by incorporating the islands of the northern Marianas within the governmental framework of the territory of Guam.

1 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE TERRITORY OF GUAM:
2 WHEREAS, the indigenous inhabitants of the Marianas
3 Islands are all of one race, known as Chamorros, having a common
4 language, religion, social customs and traditions and, until
5 the end of the Spanish-American War, a common history; and
6 WHEREAS, as a result of this war, the island of Guam, the
7 capital and seat of government of the Marianas Islands, was
8 politically separated from the remainder of their sister islands,
9 becoming a possession of the United States, and the remaining
10 islands, being of no further use to Spain since their capital and
11 largest population center had been severed, were shortly thereafter
12 sold to Imperial Germany, which sale demonstrates forcefully the
13 fact that in the minds of the Spanish rulers of the Marianas all of
14 the islands were interdependent; and
15 WHEREAS, the separation of Guam from the other islands
16 inhabited by its kinsmen resulted in over half a century of anxiety
17 and uncertainty regarding the fate of fellow Chamorros whose
18 history since that date has been a tragic one of shifting allegiance
19 from flag to flag, until their liberation from the Japanese in 1944,
20 which separation has meant hardship and tragedy for those with close
21 relatives on the other islands and which separation to this date
22 continues; and
23 WHEREAS, this rupture of the Marianas Islands has always
24 been believed by the older inhabitants of Guam to have been the
25 result only of an oversight on the part of the United States which
26 did not realize at the time of the signing of the Treaty of Paris
27 how essential the other islands of the Marianas were to the future

1 stability and economy of Guam; and

2 WHEREAS, despite this unfortunate and perhaps accidental
3 division of one race, the people of the Marianas have never lost
4 hope that a day would come when all the Chamorros once again will
5 be reunited within a homogeneous political and economic union
6 under one governmental administration; and

7 WHEREAS, due to the matchless power of the Armed Forces
8 of the Allied Nations, Guam and the other Marianas Islands were
9 liberated from their common oppressor with the result that all of
10 these islands were placed under the control of the United States,
11 thereby assuring to the Chamorro race the priceless opportunity
12 for self-government of their choosing within the American framework;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, as a result of the conflict attendant upon the
15 Second World War, the United Nations was born, which organization
16 had as one of its primary purposes the self-government, and self-
17 determination of all the peoples of the world, and to that end
18 instituted a trusteeship arrangement whereby Great Powers undertook
19 to assure such self-determination to peoples under their trust, the
20 purposes of which trust are set forth in Article 76 of the United
21 Nations' Charter:

22 "Article 76." The basic objectives of the trustee-
23 ship system, in accordance with the purposes of the
24 United Nations laid down in Article 1 of the present
25 Charter, shall be:

- 26 a. to further international peace and security;
27 b. to promote the political, economic, social
28 and educational advancement of the inhabitants
29 of the trust territories, and their progressive
30 development towards self-government or
31 independence as may be appropriate to the
32 particular circumstances of each territory and
33 its peoples and the freely expressed wishes

1 of the peoples concerned, and as may be
2 provided by the terms of each trusteeship
3 agreement;

- 4 c. to encourage respect for human rights and for
5 fundamental freedoms for all without distinction
6 as to races, sex, language, or religion, and to
7 encourage recognition of the interdependence
8 of the peoples of the world; and
9 b. to ensure equal treatment in social, economic
10 and commercial matters for all members of
11 the United Nations and their nationals, and
12 also equal treatment for the latter in the
13 administration of justice, without prejudice
14 to the attainment of the foregoing objective
15 and subject to the provisions of Article 80;"

16 and

17 WHEREAS, the United States was given the trusteeship of
18 these northern Marianas Islands as part of its responsibilities in
19 the Pacific as a Great Power and as recognition of its decisive
20 role in the liberation of such islands; and

21 WHEREAS, the trusteeship agreement entered into by the
22 United States with the United Nations contains within it the follow-
23 ing Article 9:

24 "ARTICLE 9

25 The administering authority shall be entitled
26 to constitute the trust territory into a customs,
27 fiscal, or administrative union or federation with
28 other territories under United States jurisdiction
29 and to establish common services between such terri-
30 tories and the trust territory where such measures
31 are not inconsistent with the basic objectives of
32 the International Trusteeship System and with the
33 terms of this agreement";

1 which article indicates that the Northern Marianas may be instituted
2 into the territory of Guam as part of an administrative union or
3 federation, since such a measure would not be inconsistent with
4 the basic objectives of the trusteeship system but would indeed
5 be the culmination of the desires of the inhabitants of all the
6 Marianas; and

7 WHEREAS, this Legislature has received from time to time
8 letters and communications from various residents and leaders of
9 the Island of Saipan, the largest and most populated isle in the
10 Marianas other than Guam, which have stated unequivocally the desires
11 of the people of Saipan to be reunited with their kinsmen of Guam;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, a favorable response to this resolution and the
14 resulting reunion of the Chamorro race would clearly demonstrate
15 to the rest of the world the good faith and high moral purpose of
16 the United States and the manifest advantages of the American system
17 of government, since after less than 15 years of only the most
18 rudimentary type of American government the people of the Northern
19 Marianas desire nothing more than closer integration with the
20 United States and greater self-government within the framework
21 of the American territory of Guam, thereby destroying the myth
22 of American colonialism and fortifying the traditional American
23 concept of self-determination for all races and peoples; and

24 WHEREAS, the benefits of such a reunification of the
25 Marianas, aside from the spiritual and moral uplift to be derived
26 therefrom, would also mean a more viable economy for both Guam
27 and the other islands, with the increased trade and travel meaning
28 more prosperity for all and enabling Guam to become less dependent
29 on a military economy; and

30 WHEREAS, this aspiration that all the people of the Marianas
31 be reunited within the framework of the American system of free and
32 representative government is a hope that can be shared by freedom-
33 loving people all over the world, since the undenying desire is to
34 permit the government of the Marianas Islands to be "of the people,

1. by the people, and for the people"; now terefore be it

2 RESOLVED, that the Fourth Guam Legislature does hereby
3 on behalf of the people of Guam and in sympathy with the people of
4 all the Marianas Islands respectfully request and petition the Con-
5 gress of the United States to cause the northern Marianas Islands
6 to be incorporated within the framework of the territory of Guam;
7 and be it further

8 RESOLVED, that this resolution do also serve as express-
9 ing the deep gratitude and appreciation of all the people of the
10 Marianas to the United States and to its Armed Forces for their
11 strength and power which delivered the Islands from the oppressor
12 and have made it possible for this resolution to be entertained,
13 since the eventual reunification of the Marianas is a goal that can
14 be reached and is desired to be reached only under the American
15 flag; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, that the Speaker certify to and the Legislative
17 Secretary attest the adoption hereof and that copies of the same
18 be thereafter transmitted to the President of the United States,
19 to the President of the Senate, to the Speaker of the House of
20 Representatives, to the Chairmen of the Committees on Interior and
21 Insular Affairs, Senate and House, to the Secretary of the Interior,
22 to the Secretary of Defense, to Commander Naval Forces Marianas,
23 to the Chairman of the Saipan Congress, and to the Governor of
24 Guam.

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