

The background is a collage of historical black and white photographs. At the top, a row of small, single-story houses is visible. Below that, a large crowd of people is gathered in an open area. At the bottom, a group of people is standing in front of a building with a covered entrance. The central logo is overlaid on a large, light gray circle.

CNMI
 250
AMERICA
COMMISSION
50 Years

TO COMMEMORATE THE
COVENANT'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY
(1976-2026)

DEDICATION

This commemorative edition of the Covenant to Establish a *Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America* is respectfully dedicated to the memory of **Governor Arnold I. Palacios**, whose leadership and vision helped guide the Commonwealth in preparing to mark this historic milestone. Through **Executive Order No. 2024-007**, Governor Palacios established the **CNMI America250 Commission**, recognizing the importance of commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the Covenant and ensuring that the history, meaning, and enduring principles of the Commonwealth would be shared with present and future generations.

Governor Palacios understood that the Covenant is more than a legal document—it is the foundation of the Commonwealth’s political identity and the expression of the people’s choice to pursue self-government in political union with the United States. His commitment to honoring this legacy reflects the same spirit of public service and dedication to the people of the Northern Mariana Islands that has guided the Commonwealth since its founding.

May this Jubilee commemoration stand as a tribute to his leadership and to the enduring partnership, resilience, and shared responsibility that continue to define the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

With gratitude and remembrance.

“The people of the Northern Mariana Islands, exercising their right of self-determination, have chosen to enter into political union with the United States of America.”

— *Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America*



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Foreword

50th Anniversary Commemorative Edition

In 1976, after generations of colonial administration and profound geopolitical change in the Pacific, the people of the Northern Mariana Islands and the United States affirmed a new political relationship through the signing of the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America. Approved by the voters of the Northern Mariana Islands and enacted by the United States Congress, this historic agreement established the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) and defined a framework for self-government in political union with the United States.

The Covenant did not emerge in isolation. It was shaped by centuries of experience and aspiration. From the era of Spanish administration beginning in the 17th century, to the transfer of control to Germany in 1899, to Japanese administration under the League of Nations mandate following World War I, the people of the Northern Mariana Islands endured successive systems of governance not of their own design. After World War II, the islands became part of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, administered by the United States pursuant to a United Nations trusteeship agreement.

It was during this trusteeship period that leaders of the Northern Mariana Islands began to assert a clear and deliberate vision for their political future. Distinct from other districts of the Trust Territory, the people of the Northern Marianas pursued closer and permanent political union with the United States. Negotiations between representatives of the Marianas Political Status Commission and the United States culminated in the Covenant's approval by plebiscite in 1975 and its enactment into U.S. law in 1976. In 1978, the people ratified their own Constitution, giving practical effect to the self-governing authority guaranteed under the Covenant.

The Covenant established more than a governmental structure. It secured United States citizenship for the people of the Northern Mariana Islands; affirmed local self-government under a locally drafted constitution; provided for representation within the federal system; and recognized the importance of protecting land ownership and cultural preservation. It created a legal and political framework balancing local autonomy with federal partnership—an arrangement unique in the American political landscape.

Fifty years later, this commemorative printing invites reflection. The Covenant has shaped every dimension of civic life in the Commonwealth: governance, economic development, immigration policy, land tenure, and cultural preservation. It has enabled the CNMI to navigate complex transitions—from the trusteeship era to constitutional self-government; from an agriculture-based economy to one shaped by manufacturing and tourism; and into the evolving realities of the 21st century Pacific.

Anniversaries are not only occasions for celebration, but for thoughtful assessment. The Covenant represents both achievement and responsibility. It embodies the deliberate choice of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands to define their political destiny in partnership with the United States. At the same time, it calls each generation to understand its provisions, to safeguard the rights it secures, and to engage meaningfully in the democratic institutions it established.

As we mark this 50th anniversary, we honor the foresight and determination of the negotiators, community leaders, and citizens whose work made the Covenant possible. We acknowledge the resilience of the Chamorro and Carolinian people whose history and identity predate any modern political framework. And we reaffirm the enduring principle at the heart of the Covenant: that government derives its legitimacy from the consent of the governed.

May this commemorative edition serve not only as a historical record, but as an educational resource and a reminder that the Covenant is a living document—one that continues to shape the Commonwealth's relationship with the United States and its place in the Pacific community.

On behalf of the **CNMI America250 Commission**, we present this edition in recognition of fifty years of political union, self-government, and shared responsibility.

**COVENANT TO ESTABLISH A
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 Security Council of the United Nations and the United States of America guarantee to the people of the Northern Mariana Islands the right freely to express their wishes for self-government or independence; and

Whereas, the United States supports the desire of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands to exercise their inalienable right of self-determination; and

Whereas, the people of the Northern Mariana Islands and the people of the United States share the goals and values found in the American system of government based upon the principles of government by the consent of the government, individual freedom and democracy; and

Whereas, for over twenty years, the people of the Northern Mariana Islands, through public petition and referendum, have clearly expressed their desire for political union with the United States;

Now, therefore, the Mariana Political Status Commission, being the duly appointed representative of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Personal Representative of the President of the United States have entered into this Covenant in order to establish a self-governing commonwealth for the Northern Mariana Islands within the American political system and to define the future relationship between the Northern Mariana Islands and the United States. This Covenant will be mutually binding when it is approved by the United States, by the Mariana Islands District Legislature and by the people of the Northern Mariana Islands in a plebiscite, constituting on their part a sovereign act of self-determination.

ARTICLE I

Political Relationship

Section 101

The Northern Mariana Islands upon termination of the Trusteeship Agreement will become a self-governing commonwealth to be known as the "Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands", in political union with and under the sovereignty of the United States of America.

Section 102.

The relations between the Northern Mariana Islands and the United States will be governed by this Covenant which, together with those provisions of the Constitution, treaties and laws of the United States applicable to the Northern Mariana Islands, will be the supreme law of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Section 103.

The people of the Northern Mariana Islands will have the right of local self-government and will govern themselves with respect to internal affairs in accordance with a Constitution of their own adoption.

Section 104.

The United States will have complete responsibility for and authority with respect to matters relating to foreign affairs and defense affecting the Northern Mariana Islands.

Section 105.

The United States may enact legislation in accordance with its constitutional processes which will be applicable to the Northern Mariana Islands, but if such legislation cannot also be made applicable to the several States the Northern Mariana Islands must be specifically named therein for it to become effective in the Northern Mariana Islands. In order to respect the light of self-government guaranteed by this Covenant the United States agrees to limit the exercise of that authority so that the fundamental provisions of this Covenant, namely Articles I, II and III and Sections 501 and 805, may be modified only with the consent of the Government of the United States and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands.

ARTICLE II

Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands

Section 201.

The people of the Northern Mariana Islands will formulate and approve a Constitution and may amend their Constitution pursuant to the procedures provided therein.

Section 202.

The Constitution will be submitted to the Government of the United States for approval on the basis of its consistency with this Covenant and those provisions of the Constitution, treaties and laws of the United States to be applicable to the Northern Mariana Islands. The Constitution will be deemed to have been approved six months after its submission to the President on behalf of the Government of the United States unless earlier approved or disapproved. If disapproved the Constitution will be returned and will be resubmitted in accordance with this section. Amendments to the Constitution may be made by the people of the Northern Mariana Islands without approval by the Government of the United States, but the courts established by the Constitution or laws of the United States will be competent to determine whether the Constitution and subsequent amendments thereto are consistent with this Covenant and with those provisions of the Constitution, treaties and laws of the United States applicable to the Northern Mariana Islands.

Section 203.

(a) The Constitution will provide for a republican form of government with separate executive, legislative and judicial branches, and will contain a bill of rights.

(b) The executive power of the Northern Mariana Islands will be vested in a popularly elected Governor and such other officials as the Constitution or laws of the Northern Mariana Islands may provide.

(c) The legislative power of the Northern Mariana Islands will be vested in a popularly elected legislature and will extend to all rightful subjects of legislation. The Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands will provide for equal representation for each of the chartered municipalities of the Northern Mariana Islands in one house of a bicameral legislature, notwithstanding other provisions of this Covenant or those provisions of the Constitution or laws of the United States applicable to the Northern Mariana Islands.

(d) The judicial power of the Northern Mariana Islands will be vested in such courts as the Constitution or laws of the Northern Mariana Islands may provide. The Constitution or laws of the Northern Mariana Islands may vest in such courts jurisdiction over all causes in the Northern Mariana Islands over which any court established by the Constitution or laws of the United States does not have exclusive jurisdiction.

Section 204.

All members of the legislature of the Northern Mariana Islands and all officers and employees of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands will take an oath or affirmation to support this Covenant those provisions of the Constitution, treaties and laws of the United States applicable to the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Constitution and laws of the Northern Mariana Islands.

ARTICLE III

Citizenship and Nationality

Section 301.

The following persons and their children under the age of 18 years on the effective date of this Section, who are not citizens or nationals of the United States under any other provision of law, and who on that date do not owe allegiance to any foreign state, are declared to be citizens of the United States, except as otherwise provided in Section 302;

(a) all persons born in the Northern Mariana Islands who are citizens of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands on the day preceding the effective date of this Section, and who on that date are domiciled in the Northern Mariana Islands or in the United States or any territory or possession thereof,

(b) all persons who are citizens of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands on the day preceding the effective date of this Section, who have been domiciled continuously in the Northern Mariana Islands for at least five years immediately prior to that date, and who, unless under age, registered to vote in elections for the Mariana Islands District Legislature or for any municipal election in the Northern Mariana Islands prior to January 1, 1975; and

(c) all persons domiciled in the Northern Mariana Islands on the day preceding the effective date of this Section, who, although not citizens of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, on that date have been domiciled continuously in the Northern Mariana Islands beginning prior to January 1, 1974.

Section 302.

Any person who becomes a citizen of the United States solely by virtue of the provisions of Section 301 may within six months after the effective date of that Section or within six months after reaching the age of 18 years, whichever date is the later, become a national but not a citizen of the United States by making a declaration under oath before any court established by the Constitution or laws of the United States or any court of record in the Commonwealth in the form as follows:

"I _____, being duly sworn, hereby declare my intention to be a national but not a citizen of the United States."

Section 303.

All persons born in the Commonwealth on or after the effective date of this Section and subject to the jurisdiction of the United States will be citizens of the United States at birth.

Section 304.

Citizens of the Northern Mariana Islands will be entitled to all privileges and immunities of citizens in the several States of the United States.

ARTICLE IV

Judicial Authority

Section 401.

The United States will establish for and within the Northern Mariana Islands a court of record to be known as the "District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands." The Northern Mariana Islands will constitute a part of the same judicial circuit of the United States as Guam.

Section 402.

(a) The District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands will have the jurisdiction of a district court of the United States, except that in all causes arising under the Constitution, treaties or laws of the United States it will have jurisdiction regardless of the sum or value of the matter in controversy.

(b) The District Court will have original jurisdiction in all causes in the Northern Mariana Islands not described in Subsection (a) jurisdiction over which is not vested by the Constitution or laws of the Northern Mariana Islands in a court or courts of the Northern Mariana Islands. In causes brought in the District Court solely on the basis of this Subsection, the District Court will be considered a court of the Northern Mariana Islands for the purposes of determining the requirements of the indictment by grand jury or trial by jury.

(c) The District Court will have such appellate jurisdiction as the Constitution or laws of the Northern Mariana Islands may provide. When it sits as an appellate court, the District Court will consist of three judges, at least one of whom will be a judge of a court of record of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Section 403.

(a) The relations between the courts established by the Constitution or laws of the United States and the courts of the Northern Mariana Islands with respect to appeals, certiorari, removal of causes, the issuance of writs of habeas corpus and other matters or proceedings will be governed by the laws of the United States pertaining to the relations between the courts of the United States and the courts of the several States in such matters and proceedings, except as otherwise provided in this Article; provided that for the first fifteen years following the establishment of an appellate court of the Northern Mariana Islands the United States Court of Appeals for the judicial circuit which includes the Northern Mariana Islands will have jurisdiction of appeals from all final decisions of the highest court of the Northern Mariana Islands from which a decision could be had in all cases involving the Constitution, treaties or laws of the United States, or any authority exercised thereunder, unless those cases are reviewable in the District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands pursuant to Subsection 402(c).

(b) Those portions of Title 28 of the United States Code which apply to Guam or the District Court of Guam will be applicable to the Northern Mariana Islands, respectively, except as otherwise provided in this Article.

ARTICLE V

Applicability of Laws

Section 501.

(a) To the extent that they are not applicable of their own force, the following provisions of the Constitution of the United States will be applicable within the Northern Mariana Islands as if the Northern Mariana Islands were one of the several States: Article I, Section 9, Clauses 2, 3, and 8; Article I, Section 10, Clauses 1 and 3; Article IV, Section 1 and Section 2, Clauses 1 and 2; Amendments 1 through 9, inclusive; Amendment 13; Amendment 14, Section 1; Amendment 15; Amendment 19; and Amendment 26; provided, however, that neither trial by jury nor indictment by grand jury shall be required in any civil action or criminal prosecution based on local law, except where required by local law. Other provisions of or amendments to the Constitution of the United States, which do not apply of their own force within the Northern Mariana Islands, will be applicable within the Northern Mariana Islands only with the approval of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands and of the Government of the United States.

(b) The applicability of certain provisions of the Constitution of the United States to the Northern Mariana Islands will be without prejudice to the validity of and the power of the Congress of the United States to consent to Sections 203, 506 and 805 and the proviso in Subsection (a) of this Section.

Section 502.

(a) The following laws of the United States in existence on the effective date of this Section and subsequent amendments to such laws will apply to the Northern Mariana Islands, except as otherwise provided in this Covenant:

(1) those laws which provide federal services and financial assistance programs and the federal banking laws as they apply to Guam; Section 228 of Title II and Title XVI of the Social Security Act as it applies to the several States; the Public Health Service Act as it applies to the Virgin Islands; and the Micronesian Claims Act as it applies to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands-,

(2) those laws not described in paragraph (1) which are applicable to Guam and which are of general application to the several States as they are applicable to the several states; and

(3) those laws not described in paragraphs (1) or (2) which are applicable to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, but not their subsequent amendments unless specifically made applicable to the Northern Mariana Islands, as they apply to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands until termination of the Trusteeship Agreement, and will thereafter be inapplicable.

(b) The laws of the United States regarding coastal shipments and the conditions of employment, including the wages and hours of employees, will apply to the activities of

the United States Government and its contractors in the Northern Mariana Islands.

Section 503.

The following laws of the United States, presently inapplicable to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, will not apply to the Northern Mariana Islands except in the manner and to the extent made applicable to them by the Congress by law after termination of the Trusteeship Agreement:

(a) except as otherwise provided in Section 506, the immigration and naturalization laws of the United States-,

(b) except as otherwise provided in Subsection (b) of Section 502, the coastwise laws of the United States and any prohibition in the laws of the United States against foreign vessels landing fish or unfinished fish products in the United States; and

(c) the minimum wage provisions of Section 6, Act of June 25, 1938, 52 Stat. 1062, as amended.

Section 504.

The President will appoint a Commission on Federal Laws to survey the laws of the United States and to make recommendations to the United States Congress as to which laws of the United States not applicable to the Northern Mariana Islands should be made applicable and to what extent and in what manner, and which applicable laws should be made inapplicable and to what extent and in what manner. The Commission will consist of seven persons (at least four of whom will be citizens of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands who are and have been for at least five years domiciled continuously in the Northern Mariana Islands at the time of their appointments) who will be representative of the federal, local, private and public interests in the applicability of laws of the United States to the Northern Mariana Islands. The Commission will make its final report and recommendations to the Congress within one year after the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement, and before that time will make such interim reports and recommendations to the Congress as it considers appropriate to facilitate the transition of the Northern Mariana Islands to its new political status. In formulating its recommendations the Commission will take into consideration the potential effect of each law on local conditions within the Northern Mariana Islands, the policies embodied in the law and the provisions and purposes of this Covenant. The United States will bear the cost of the work of the Commission.

Section 505.

The laws of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, of the Mariana Islands District and its local municipalities, and all other Executive and District orders of a local nature applicable to the Northern Mariana Islands on the effective date of this Section and not inconsistent with this Covenant or with those provisions of the Constitution, treaties or laws of the United States applicable to the Northern Mariana Islands will remain in force and effect until and unless altered by the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Section 506.

(a) Notwithstanding the provisions of Subsection 503(a), upon the effective date of this Section the Northern Mariana Islands will be deemed to be a part of the United States under the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended for the following purposes only, and the said Act will apply to the Northern Mariana Islands to the extent indicated in each of the following Subsections of this Section.

(b) With respect to children born abroad to United States citizen or non-citizen national parents permanently residing in the Northern Mariana Islands the provisions of Section 301 and 308 of the said Act will apply.

(c) With respect to aliens who are "immediate relatives" (as defined in Subsection 201 (b) of the said Act) of United States citizens who are permanently residing in the Northern Mariana Islands all the provisions of the said Act will apply, commencing when a claim is made to entitlement to "immediate relative" status.

A person who is certified by the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands both to have been a lawful permanent resident of the Northern Mariana Islands and to have had the "immediate relative" relationship denoted herein on the effective date of this Section will be presumed to have been admitted to the United States for lawful permanent residence as of that date without the requirement of any of the usual procedures set forth in the said Act. For the purposes of the requirements of judicial naturalization, the Northern Mariana Islands will be deemed to constitute a State as defined in Subsection 101(a) paragraph (36) of the said Act. The Courts of record of the Northern Mariana Islands and the District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands will be included among the courts specified in Subsection 310(a) of the said Act and will have jurisdiction to naturalize persons who become eligible under this Section and who reside within their respective jurisdictions.

(d) With respect to persons who will become citizens or nationals of the United States under Article III of this Covenant or under this Section the loss of nationality provisions of the said Act will apply.

Commission Comment: Congressional Action.—On December 8, 1983, the U.S. Congress enacted an amendment to this section as follows:

Subsection (b) of section 606 of the Covenant ... is amended by striking out "upon termination of the Trusteeship Agreement or" and inserting in lieu thereof "on January 1 of the first calendar year following the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement or upon".

Act of Dec. 8, 1983, Pub. L. No. 98-213, § 9, 97 Stat. 1459, 1461 (1983).

ARTICLE VI

Revenue and Taxation

Section 601.

(a) The income tax laws in force in the United States will come into force in the Northern Mariana Islands as a local territorial income tax on the first day of January following the effective date of this Section, in the same manner as those laws are in force in Guam.

(b) Any individual who is a citizen or a resident of the United States, of Guam, or of the Northern Mariana Islands (including a national of the United States who is not a citizen), will file only one income tax return with respect to his income, in a manner similar to the provisions of Section 935 of Title 26, United States Code.

(c) References in the Internal Revenue Code to Guam will be deemed also to refer to the Northern Mariana Islands, where not otherwise distinctly expressed or manifestly incompatible with the intent thereof or of this Covenant.

Section 602.

The Government of the Northern Mariana Islands may by local law impose such taxes, in addition to those imposed under Section 601, as it deems appropriate and provide for the rebate of any taxes received by it, except that the power of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands to rebate collections of the local territorial income tax received by it will be limited to taxes on income derived from sources within the Northern Mariana Islands.

Section 603.

(a) The Northern Mariana Islands will not be included within the customs territory of the United States.

(b) The Government of the Northern Mariana Islands may, in a manner consistent with the international obligations of the United States, levy duties on goods imported into its territory from any area outside the customs territory of the United States and impose duties on exports from its territory.

(c) Imports from the Northern Mariana Islands into the customs territory of the United States will be subject to the same treatment as imports from Guam into the customs territory of the United States.

(d) The Government of the United States will seek to obtain from foreign countries favorable treatment for exports from the Northern Mariana Islands and will encourage other countries to consider the Northern Mariana Islands a developing territory.

Section 604.

(a) The Government of the United States may levy excise taxes on goods manufactured, sold or used or services rendered in the Northern Mariana Islands in the same manner and to the same extent as such taxes are applicable within Guam.

(b) The Government of the Northern Mariana Islands will have the authority to impose excise taxes upon goods manufactured, sold or used or services rendered within its territory or upon goods imported into its territory, provided that such excise taxes imposed on goods imported into its territory will be consistent with the international obligations of the United States.

Section 605.

Nothing in this Article will be deemed to authorize the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands to impose any customs duties on the property of the United States or on the personal property of military or civilian personnel of the United States Government or their dependents entering or leaving the Northern Mariana Islands pursuant to their contract of employment or orders assigning them to or from the Northern Mariana Islands or to impose any taxes on the property, activities or instrumentalities of the United States which one of the several States could not impose; nor will any provision of this Article be deemed to affect the operation of the Soldiers and Sailors Civil Relief Act of 1940, as amended, which will be applicable to the Northern Mariana Islands as it is applicable to Guam.

Section 606.

(a) Not later than at the time this Covenant is approved, that portion of the Trust Territory Social Security Retirement Fund attributable to the Northern Mariana Islands will be transferred to the Treasury of the United States, to be held in trust as a separate fund to be known as the "Northern Mariana Islands Social Security Retirement Fund". This fund will be administered by the United States in accordance with the social security laws of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands in effect at the time of such transfer, which may be modified by the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands only in a manner which does not create any additional differences between the social security laws of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and the laws described in Subsection (b).

The United States will supplement such fund if necessary to assure that persons receive benefits therefrom comparable to those they would have received from the Trust Territory Social Security Retirement Fund under the laws applicable thereto on the day preceding the establishment of the Northern Mariana Islands Social Security Retirement Fund, so long as the rate of contributions thereto also remains comparable.

(b) Those laws of the United States which impose excise and self-employment taxes to support or which provide benefits from the United States Social Security System will on January 1 of the first calendar year following the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement or upon such earlier date as may be agreed to by the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Government of the United States become applicable to the Northern Mariana Islands as they apply to Guam.

(c) At such time as the laws described in Subsection (b) become applicable to the Northern Mariana Islands:

- (1) the Northern Mariana Islands Social Security Retirement Fund will be transferred into the appropriate Federal Social Security Trust Funds;
- (2) prior contributions by or on behalf of persons domiciled in the Northern Mariana Islands to the Trust Territory Social Security Retirement Fund or the Northern Mariana Islands Social Security Retirement Fund will be considered to have been made to the appropriate Federal Social Security Trust Funds for the purpose of determining eligibility of those persons in the Northern Mariana Islands for benefits under those laws; and
- (3) persons domiciled in the Northern Mariana Islands who are eligible for or entitled to social security benefits under the laws of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands or of the Northern Mariana Islands will not lose their entitlement and will be eligible for or entitled to benefits under the laws described in Subsection (b).

Commission Comment:

According to U.S. Public Law 98-213, § 9, 97 Stat. 1461, enacted December 8, 1983: "[s]ubsection (b) of section 606 of the Covenant... is amended by striking out 'upon termination of the Trusteeship Agreement or' and inserting in lieu thereof 'on January 1 of the first calendar year following the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement or upon'." Section 606 is not one of the Covenant's "fundamental provisions" that "may be modified only with the consent of the government of the United States and the government of the Northern Mariana Islands." Covenant § 105.

Section 607.

- (a) All bonds or other obligations issued by the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands or by its authority will be exempt, as to principal and interest, from taxation by the United States, or by any State, territory or possession of the United States, or any political subdivision of any of them.
- (b) During the initial seven year period of financial assistance provided for in Section 702, and during such subsequent periods of financial assistance as may be agreed, the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands will authorize no public indebtedness (other than bonds or other obligations of the Government payable solely from revenues derived from any public improvement or undertaking) in excess of ten percentum of the aggregate assessed valuation of the property within the Northern Mariana Islands.

ARTICLE VII

United States Financial Assistance

Section 701.

The Government of the United States will assist the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands in its efforts to achieve a progressively higher standard of living for its people as part of the American economic community and to develop the economic resources needed to meet the financial responsibilities of local self-government. To this end, the United States will provide direct multi-year financial support to the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands for local government operations, for capital improvement programs and for economic development. The initial period of such support will be seven years, as provided in Section 702.

Section 702.

Approval of this Covenant by the United States will constitute a commitment and pledge of the full faith and credit of the United States for the payment, as well as an authorization for the appropriation, of the following guaranteed annual levels of direct grant assistance to the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands for each of the seven fiscal years following the effective date of this Section:

- (a) \$8.25 million for budgetary support for government operations, of which \$250,000 each year will be reserved for a special education training fund connected with the change in the political status of the Northern Mariana Islands;
- (b) \$4 million for capital improvement projects, of which \$500,000 each year will be reserved for such projects on the Island of Tinian and \$500,000 each year will be reserved for such projects on the Island of Rota; and
- (c) \$1.75 million for an economic development loan fund, of which \$500,000 each year will be reserved for small loans to farmers and fishermen and to agricultural and marine cooperatives, and of which \$250,000 each year will be reserved for a special program of low interest housing loans for low income families.

Section 703.

(a) The United States will make available to the Northern Mariana Islands the full range of federal programs and services available to the territories of the United States. Funds provided under Section 702 will be considered to be local revenues of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands when used as the local share required to obtain federal programs and services.

(b) There will be paid into the Treasury of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands, to be expended to the benefit of the people thereof as that Government may by law prescribe, the proceeds of all customs duties and federal income taxes derived from the Northern Mariana Islands, the proceeds of all taxes collected under the internal revenue laws of the United States on articles produced in the Northern Mariana Islands and transported to the United States, its territories or possessions, or

consumed in the Northern Mariana Islands, the proceeds of any other taxes which may be levied by the Congress on the inhabitants of the Northern Mariana Islands, and all quarantine, passport, immigration and naturalization fees collected in the Northern Mariana Islands, except that nothing in this Section shall be construed to apply to any tax imposed by Chapters 2 or 21 of Title 26, United States Code.

Section 704.

- (a) Funds provided under Section 702 not obligated or expended by the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands during any fiscal year will remain available for obligation or expenditure by that Government in subsequent fiscal years for the purposes for which the funds were appropriated.
- (b) Approval of this Covenant by the United States will constitute an authorization for the appropriation of a pro-rata share of the funds provided under Section 702 for the period between the effective date of this Section and the beginning of the next succeeding fiscal year.
- (c) The amounts stated in Section 702 will be adjusted for each fiscal year by a percentage which will be the same as the percentage change in the United States Department of Commerce composite price index using the beginning of Fiscal Year 1975 as the base.
- (d) Upon expiration of the seven year period of guaranteed annual direct grant assistance provided by Section 702, the annual level of payments in each category listed in Section 702 will continue until Congress appropriates a different amount or otherwise provided by law.



ARTICLE VIII

Property

Section 801.

All right, title and interest of the Government of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands in and to real property in the Northern Mariana Islands on the date of the signing of this Covenant or thereafter acquired in any manner whatsoever will, no later than upon the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement, be transferred to the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands. All right, title and interest of the Government of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands in and to all personal property on the date of the signing of this Covenant or thereafter acquired in any manner whatsoever will, no later than upon the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement, be distributed equitably in a manner to be determined by the Government of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands in consultation with those concerned, including the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Section 802.

(a) The following property will be made available to the Government of the United States by lease to enable it to carry out its defense responsibilities:

(1) on Tinian Island, approximately 17,799 acres (7,203 hectares) and the waters immediately adjacent thereto;

(2) on Saipan Island, approximately 177 acres (72 hectares) at Tanapag Harbor; and

(3) on Farallon de Medinilla Island, approximately 206 acres (83 hectares) encompassing the entire island, and the waters immediately adjacent thereto.

(b) The United States affirms that it has no present need for or present intention to acquire any greater interest in property listed above than that which is granted to it under Subsection 803(a), or to acquire any property in addition to that listed in Subsection (a), above, in order to carry out its defense responsibilities.

Section 803.

(a) The Government of the Northern Mariana Islands will lease the property described in Subsection 802(a) to the Government of the United States for a term of fifty years, and the Government of the United States will have the option of renewing this lease for all or part of such property for an additional term of fifty years if it so desires at the end of the first term.

(b) The Government of the United States will pay to the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands in full settlement of this lease, including the second fifty year term of the lease if extended under the renewal option, the total sum of \$19,520,600, determined as follows:

(1) for that property on Tinian Island, \$17.5 million;

(2) for that property at Tanapag Harbor on Saipan Island, \$2 million; and

(3) for that property known as Farallon de Medinilla, \$20,600.

The sum stated in this Subsection will be adjusted by a percentage which will be the same as the percentage change in the United States Department of Commerce composite price index from the date of signing the Covenant.

(c) A separate Technical Agreement Regarding Use of Land To Be Leased by the United States in the Northern Mariana Islands will be executed simultaneously with this Covenant. The terms of the lease to the United States will be in accordance with this Section and with the terms of the Technical Agreement. The Technical Agreement will also contain terms relating to the leaseback of property, to the joint use arrangements for San Jose Harbor and West Field on Tinian Island, and to the principles which will govern the social structure relations between the United States military and the Northern Mariana Islands civil authorities.

(d) From the property to be leased to it in accordance with this Covenant the Government of the United States will lease back to the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands, in accordance with the Technical Agreement, for the sum of one dollar per acre per year, approximately 6,458 acres (2,614 hectares) on Tinian Island and approximately 44 acres (18 hectares) at Tanapag Harbor on Saipan Island, which will be used for purposes compatible with their intended military use.

(e) From the property to be leased to it at Tanapag Harbor on Saipan Island the Government of the United States will make available to the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands 133 acres (54 hectares) at no cost. This property will be set aside for public use as an American memorial park to honor the American and Marianas dead in the World War II Marianas Campaign. The \$2 million received from the Government of the United States for the lease of this property will be placed into a trust fund, and used for the development and maintenance of the park in accordance with the Technical Agreement.

Section 804.

(a) The Government of the United States will cause all agreements between it and the Government of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands which grant to the Government of the United States use or other rights in real property in the Northern Mariana Islands to be terminated upon or before the effective date of this Section. All right, title and interest of the Government of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands in and to any real property with respect to which the Government of the United States enjoys such use or other rights will be transferred to the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands at the time of such termination. From the time such right, title and interest is so transferred the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands will assure the Government of the United States the continued use of the real property then actively used by the Government of the United States for civilian governmental purposes on terms comparable to those enjoyed by the Government of the United States under its

arrangements with the Government of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands on the date of the signature of this Covenant.

(b) all facilities at Isely Field developed with federal aid and all facilities at that field usable for the landing and take-off of aircraft will be available to the United States for use by military and naval aircraft, in common with other aircraft, at all times without charge, except, if the use by military and naval aircraft shall be substantial, a reasonable share, proportional to such use, of the cost of operating and maintaining the facilities so used may be charged at a rate established by agreement between the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Government of the United States.

Section 805.

Except as otherwise provided in this Article, and notwithstanding the other provisions of this Covenant, or those provisions of the Constitution, treaties or laws of the United States applicable to the Northern Mariana Islands, the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands, in view of the importance of the ownership of land for the culture and traditions of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands, and in order to protect them against exploitation and to promote their economic advancement and self-sufficiency:

(a) will until twenty-five years after the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement, and may thereafter, regulate the alienation of permanent and long-term interests in real property so as to restrict the acquisition of such interests to persons of Northern Mariana Islands descent; and

(b) may regulate the extent to which a person may own or hold land which is now public land.

Section 806.

(a) The United States will continue to recognize and respect the scarcity and special importance of land in the Northern Mariana Islands. If the United States must acquire any interest in real property not transferred to it under this Covenant, it will follow the policy of seeking to acquire only the minimum area necessary to accomplish the public purpose for which the real property is required, of seeking only the minimum interest in real property necessary to support such public purpose, acquiring title only if the public purpose cannot be accomplished if a lesser interest is obtained, and of seeking first to satisfy its requirement by acquiring an interest in public rather than private real property.

(b) The United States may, upon prior written notice to the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands, acquire for public purposes in accordance with federal laws and procedures any interest in real property in the Northern Mariana Islands by purchase, lease, exchange, gift or otherwise under such terms and conditions as may be negotiated by the parties. The United States will in all cases attempt to acquire any interest in real property for public purposes by voluntary means under this Subsection before exercising the power of eminent domain. No interest in real property will be acquired unless duly authorized by the Congress of the United States and

appropriations available therefor.

(c) In the event it is not possible for the United States to obtain an interest in real property for public purposes by voluntary means, it may exercise within the Commonwealth the power of eminent domain to the same extent and in the same manner as it has and can exercise the power of eminent domain in a State of the Union. The power of eminent domain will be exercised within the Commonwealth only to the extent necessary and in compliance with applicable United States laws, and with full recognition of the due process required by the United States Constitution.



ARTICLE IX

Northern Mariana Islands Representative and Consultation

Section 901.

The Constitution or laws of the Northern Mariana Islands may provide for the appointment or election of a Resident Representative to the United States, whose term of office will be two years, unless otherwise determined by local law, and who will be entitled to receive official recognition as such Representative by all of the departments and agencies of the Government of the United States upon presentation through the Department of State of a certificate of selection from the Governor. The Representative must be a citizen and resident of the Northern Mariana Islands, at least twenty-five years of age, and, after termination of the Trusteeship Agreement, a citizen of the United States.

Section 902.

The Government of the United States and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands will consult regularly on all matters affecting the relationship between them. At the request of either Government and not less frequently than every ten years, the President of the United States and the Governor of the Northern Mariana Islands will designate special representatives to meet and to consider in good faith such issues affecting the relationship between the Northern Mariana Islands and the United States as may be designated by either Government and to make a report and recommendations with respect thereto. Special representatives will be appointed in any event to consider and to make recommendations regarding future multi-year financial assistance to the Northern Mariana Islands pursuant to Section 701, to meet at least one year prior to the expiration of every period of such financial assistance.

Section 903.

Nothing herein shall prevent the presentation of cases or controversies arising under this Covenant to courts established by the Constitution or laws of the United States. It is intended that any such cases or controversies will be justiciable in such courts and that the undertakings by the Government of the United States and by the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands provided for in this Covenant will be enforceable in such courts.

Section 904.

(a) The Government of the United States will give sympathetic consideration to the views of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands on international matters directly affecting the Northern Mariana Islands and will provide opportunities for the effective presentation of such views to no less extent than such opportunities are provided to any other territory or possession under comparable circumstances.

(b) The United States will assist and facilitate the establishment by the Northern Mariana Islands of offices in the United States and abroad to promote local tourism and other economic or cultural interests of the Northern Mariana Islands.

(c) On its request the Northern Mariana Islands may participate in regional and other international organizations concerned with social, economic, educational, scientific, technical and cultural matters when similar participation is authorized for any other territory or possession of the United States under comparable circumstances.

ARTICLE X

Approval, Effective Dates, and Definitions

Section 1001.

(a) This Covenant will be submitted to the Mariana Islands District Legislature for its approval. After its approval by the Mariana Islands District Legislature, this Covenant will be submitted to the people of the Northern Mariana Islands for approval in a plebiscite to be called by the United States. Only persons who are domiciled exclusively in the Northern Mariana Islands and who meet such other qualifications, including timely registration, as are promulgated by the United States as administering authority will be eligible to vote in the plebiscite. Approval must be by a majority of at least 55% of the valid votes cast in the plebiscite. The results of the plebiscite will be certified to the President of the United States.

(b) This Covenant will be approved by the United States in accordance with its constitutional processes and will thereupon become law.

Section 1002.

The President of the United States will issue a proclamation announcing the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement, or the date on which the Trusteeship Agreement will terminate, and the establishment of the Commonwealth in accordance with this Covenant. Any determination by the President that the Trusteeship Agreement has been terminated or will be terminated on a day certain will be final and will not be subject to review by any authority, judicial or otherwise, of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, the Northern Mariana Islands or the United States.

Section 1003.

The provisions of this Covenant will become effective as follows, unless otherwise specifically provided:

(a) Section 105, 201-203, 503, 504, 606, 801, 903 and Article X will become effective on approval of this Covenant;

(b) Sections 102, 103, 204, 304, Article IV, Sections 501, 502, 505, 601-605, 607, Article VII, Sections 802-805, 901 and 902 will become effective on a date to be determined and proclaimed by the President of the United States which will be not more than 180 days after this Covenant and the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands have both been approved; and

(c) The remainder of this Covenant will become effective upon the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement and the establishment of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Section 1004.

(a) The application of any provision of the Constitution or laws of the United States which would otherwise apply to the Northern Mariana Islands may be suspended until

termination of the Trusteeship Agreement if the President finds and declares that the application of such provisions prior to termination would be inconsistent with the Trusteeship Agreement.

(b) The Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands will become effective in accordance with its terms on the same day that the provisions of this Covenant specified in Subsection 1003(b) become effective, provided that if the President finds and declares that the effectiveness of any provision of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands prior to termination of the Trusteeship Agreement would be inconsistent with the Trusteeship Agreement such provision will be ineffective until termination of the Trusteeship Agreement. Upon the establishment of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands the constitution will become effective in its entirety in accordance with its terms as the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Section 1005.

As used in this Covenant:

(a) "Trusteeship Agreement" means the Trusteeship Agreement for the former Japanese Mandated Islands concluded between the Security Council of the United Nations and the United States of America, which entered into force on July 18, 1947;

(b) "Northern Mariana Islands" means the area now known as the Mariana Islands District of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands which lies within the area north of 14° north latitude, south of 21° north latitude, west of 150° east longitude and east of 144° east longitude;

(c) "Government of the Northern Marianas Islands" includes, as appropriate, the Government of the Mariana Islands District of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands at the time this Covenant is signed, its agencies and instrumentalities, and its successors, including the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;

(d) "Territory or possession" with respect to the United States includes the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam and American Samoa;

(e) "Domicile" means that place where a person maintains a residence with the intention of continuing such residence for an unlimited or indefinite period, and to which such person has the intention of returning whenever he is absent, even for an extended period.

Signed at Saipan, Mariana Islands on the fifteenth day of February, 1975.

For the people of the Northern Mariana Islands:

EDWARD DLG. PANGELINAN
Chairman
Marianas Political Status Commission

VICENTE N. SANTOS
Vice Chairman
Marianas Political Status Commission

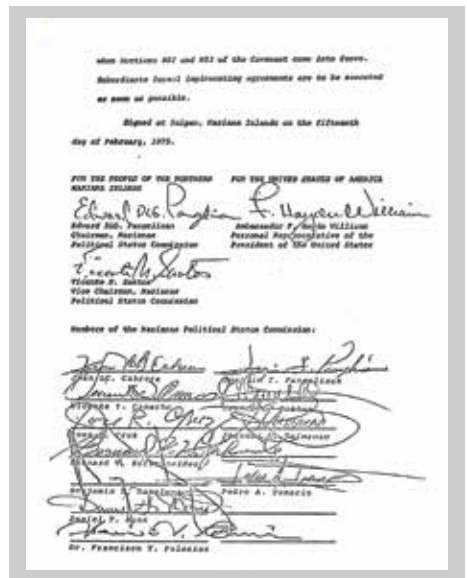
For the United States of America:

AMBASSADOR F. HAYDN WILLIAMS
Personal Representative of the
President of the United States

Members of the Marianas Political Status Commission:

JUAN LG. CABRERA
VICENTE T. CAMACHO
JOSE R. CRUZ
BERNARD V. HOFSCHEIDER
BENJAMIN T. MANGLONA
DANIEL T. MUNA
DR. FRANCISCO T. PALACIOS
JOAQUIN I. PANGELINAN
MANUEL A. SABLAN
JOANNES B. TAIMANAO
PEDRO A. TENORIO

SIGNED BY
PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD
ON MARCH 24, 1976.



THIS IS THE OFFICIAL TEXT. THE COVENANT WAS SIGNED AT SAIPAN, NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS ON 15 FEBRUARY 1975.

TECHNICAL AGREEMENT

TECHNICAL AGREEMENT REGARDING USE OF LAND TO BE LEASED BY THE UNITED STATES IN THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

The duly authorized representatives of the United States and the people of the Northern Mariana Islands,
Considering that they have today entered into a formal Covenant to establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in political union with the United States;
Recognizing that Sections 802 and 803 of that Covenant contain provisions relating to the use of land to be leased by the United States in the Northern Mariana Islands for defense purposes;
Noting that the extent of land required for use by the United States has been determined and the precise boundaries agreed upon by both parties hereto; and
Desiring that all basic arrangements relative to land be reduced to a formal land agreement;
Have now entered into the following Technical Agreement which will be deemed to have been approved when the District Legislature of the Mariana Islands District of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands approves the Covenant, and which will become effective on the date that Sections 802 and 803 of the Covenant come into force.

**PART I. MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED IN LAND LEASES
WITH THE UNITED STATES**

1. Description. Lands to be leased by the United States for defense purposes are set forth in Section 802 of the Covenant and are further described and depicted on the maps attached as Exhibits A, B, and C.

2. Acquisition. The Government of the Northern Mariana Islands or the legal land entity established by the Marianas District Legislature to receive and administer public lands in the Northern Mariana Islands, immediately upon request, will execute the lease for the lands being conveyed to the United States Government as described in paragraph 1, above, with the duly authorized representatives of the United States under the terms set forth in Section 803 of the Covenant.

Payment under the lease will be made as soon as practicable after the appropriation of funds by the Congress of the United States. The United States may enjoy full and unrestricted use of the land immediately upon making the above payment. The amount to be paid will be adjusted at the time of payment by a percentage which is the same as the percentage change, up or down, in the United States Department of Commerce composite price index from the date of signing of the Covenant.

Should payment not be made within five years from the date that Sections 802 and 803 of the Covenant

come into force, then this Agreement will automatically terminate and both parties will be released from all liability or obligations created by this Agrément and Sections 802 and 803 of the Covenant.

3. Settlement of Claims and Encumbrances. Lands leased by the United States Government defined in paragraph 1, above, are subject to the lease, of the Micronesian Development Corporation, which will be allowed to continue in accordance with its terms. All other encumbrances on or any adverse possession of lands described in paragraph 1, above, will be removed and all existing claims will be settled by the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands or by the legal entity at no additional cost to the United States Government. The United States Government will, however, pay all Title II benefits due under the Uniform Relocation and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970.

The United States Government and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands will consult and coordinate on specific actions by either party that may affect or involve possible adjustments or termination of the Micronesian Development Corporation lease. Both parties will render full assistance to the other towards achieving specific needs with respect to the Micronesian Development Corporation lease, to include either compliance with the terms of the lease, amendments to the lease, or action to terminate

he lease. In no event will either party impede the action of the other with respect to the Micronesian Development Corporation lease. The United States Government will be responsible for damages resulting from a breach or early termination of the Micronesian Development Corporation lease resulting solely from United States initiatives. The Government of the Northern Mariana Islands will be responsible for damages resulting from a breach or early termination resulting solely from its initiatives. Both the United States Government and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands or its legal entity will hold the other harmless from all claims arising by reason of such breaches or termination.

4. Disposal. Should the property leased to the United States on Tinian not be required for the needs or the discharge of the responsibilities of the United States Government, or otherwise become surplus property under United States law, the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands or the legal entity will be given first opportunity to acquire the interest of the Government of the United States in such property in accordance with United States law.

5. Leasebacks.

A. Tinian.

(1) General. A total of approximately 6,458 acres (2,614 hectares) out of a total of approximately

7,799 acres (7,203 hectares) on Tinian will be leased back from the land on Tinian described in paragraph 1, above, at such time as the lease to the United States Government for the land on Tinian becomes effective. All leasebacks on Tinian made pursuant to this Agreement will be subject to the following restrictions which will¹ be contained in the leases and will be incorporated in any subleases executed by the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands or by the legal entity:

- a. Uses of land must be compatible with planned military activities;
- b. There will be no permanent construction without prior consent;
- c. Federal Aviation Administration safety zone areas apply with respect to land use;
- d. Uses that damage or have a detrimental effect on subsequent use of the land will not be permitted;
- e. All leasebacks will be subject to cancellation upon one year's notice, or sooner in the event of urgent military requirement or national emergency; and
- f. Provisions for fair compensation in the event of cancellation or early termination will be included.

(2) Area South of Present West Field. Approximately 1,335 acres (540 hectares) lying south of West Field including

the harbor area, as indicated in Exhibit A, will be made available to the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands or the legal entity under leaseback. This leaseback will be for a term of ten years with renewal rights for an additional ten years upon the approval of the United States Government, except for the harbor area which will be on a five year basis renewable with United States Government approval. These leasebacks will be for the sum of one dollar per acre per year. The Government of the Northern Mariana Islands or the legal entity may in turn sub-lease these lands on terms compatible with the leaseback, with such sub-leases subject to immediate revocation in the event of violation of their terms. Permissible uses are grazing, agriculture that does not interfere with flight safety, and other possible uses that may be approved from time to time by the United States Government.

(3) Area North of Present West Field and East of Broadway. The lands north of West Field and east of Broadway, indicated in Exhibit A, will continue to be used in accordance with the terms and conditions of the current lease with the Micronesian Development Corporation. This includes approximately 4,010 acres (1,623 hectares).

(4) Military Maneuver Area on Tinian--Grazing Leases. The United States will lease back the land within all but two of the existing grazing leases in the proposed maneuver area north of West Field shown in Exhibit A.

substitute grazing leases will be made available within areas set aside for maneuvers north of West Field for the two leases indicated in Exhibit A which are presently located in areas with a high probability of their being used by United States forces, which renders them unsuitable for leaseback. This agreement is limited to accommodation of persons actually using this leased land for grazing purposes as of December 19, 1974. All such leases will be for five years at one dollar per acre per year, renewable with United States Government approval for additional periods of up to five years and subject to immediate revocation in the event of violation of their terms. Grazing will be the only use permitted unless authorized by the United States Government. Approximately 610 acres (247 hectares) will be leased back in this category.

(5) Military Maneuver Area on Tinian--Present

Private Owners. There are 38 deeded homestead parcels and six pending homesteads in the maneuver area as indicated in Exhibit A. The Government of the Northern Mariana Islands or the legal entity will acquire the land at no additional cost to the United States Government and will provide an opportunity for the owners of these homesteads who may be eligible for new homesteads as a result of their displacement to exchange their land with comparable lands outside the military area. The homestead owners will be fully compensated by the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands or by

he legal entity if they do not choose this exchange and will, in addition, receive from the United States Government whatever relocation compensation and assistance to which they would be entitled under United States law. After this land now held as homesteads is acquired by the United States Government by lease from the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands or from the legal entity the United States Government will, on a case-by-case basis and on request, lease it back to those former owners who wish to continue to farm the land for periods of five years at one dollar per acre per year, renewable with United States approval for additional periods of up to five years. Approximately 503 acres (204 hectares) are involved in this category.

(6) Civilian Aviation Terminal Facilities, West Field. The present existing civilian air terminal may remain until its relocation is determined to be necessary by the United States Government. Sufficient land will be made available at nominal cost adjacent to the present or a future runway for civilian terminal facilities, including aprons, aircraft parking, terminal building(s), automobile parking and roadways. If a future relocation becomes necessary, the United States will reimburse the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands for fair value of the then-existing terminal building and make alternate land available at nominal cost as near to the runways and related taxiways

as practicable for construction by the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands of new terminal facilities. The costs of again relocating the terminal facilities, along with construction costs for necessary replacement of apron and parking areas, will be borne by the United States Government. Ample land provision will be made, also at nominal cost, for necessary growth and expansion of the civilian facility.

B. Saipan–Tanapag Harbor.

The United States Government will make available to the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands without cost 133 acres (53.8 hectares) out of the 177 acres (71.6 hectares) leased to the United States Government at Tanapag Harbor, as indicated in Exhibit B. This area will be set aside for public use as an American memorial park to honor the American and Marianas dead in the World War II Marianas campaign. Two million dollars (\$2,000,000) of the total funds paid by the United States Government will be placed in a trust fund by the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands, or by the legal entity, with income from the fund used to develop and maintain the memorial park. Income from this trust fund may be utilized for other purposes only with the concurrence of the United States Government. The United States will assist in this development by providing assistance in planning and technical advice. Adequate space will be provided the United States Government to

construct at its expense a memorial to the Americans who died in the Marianas campaign. In addition, the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands may erect its own memorial to Marianas war dead at its expense. The remaining 44 acres (17.8 hectares) will be made available to the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands or to the legal entity by leaseback on the same terms and conditions named in paragraph 5A(1), above, as appropriate. Uses of the 44 acres must be harbor-related as determined by the United States. The definition of harbor-related activities will be made available to the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands on request and incorporated in subleases in the area. Leases will be for ten years and will be automatically renewable.

C. Other Leasebacks. The Government of the United States may from time to time lease back other land temporarily in excess within the land described in paragraph 1, above, to the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands or to the legal entity in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

PART II. JOINT USE

The Government of the United States or its duly authorized representative will enter into joint use agreements with a duly authorized agency or agencies of the Government



of the Northern Mariana Islands, when such agency or agencies have been established by the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands, which will cover among other things the following:

1. San Jose Harbor, Tinian. San Jose Harbor will initially be under Government of the Northern Mariana Islands control under specific terms of the leaseback. If a decision is made by the Department of Defense to implement plans for an operational joint service base on Tinian, appropriate joint control arrangements will be agreed upon for the construction and subsequent periods to accommodate the needs of the civilian community along with military needs. At such time as joint control arrangements become necessary, the feasibility of adopting standards which will permit uninterrupted commercial shipping operations during fuel transfer operations will be investigated so as to minimize the possible interference with civilian activity. When the United States upgrades the existing harbor the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands will upgrade its approximately 600 feet of wharf space or reimburse the United States for having such services performed as part of the United States construction project.

With respect to the two plots totalling approximately nine acres (3.6 hectares) immediately adjacent to the 600 foot civilian wharf shown in Exhibit A, the Government

of the Northern Mariana Islands will place appropriate restrictions on their use for harbor-related activities only.

2. West Field, Tinian

A. General Use. For aviation purposes the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands and the civilian community of Tinian will have continuous joint use of West Field with exceptions for safety of flight and priority military operations. The Government of the Northern Mariana Islands will have operational responsibility for West Field, except during periods of military use, until the United States assumes permanent operational responsibility. During such periods the Department of Defense will assume operational responsibility and control.

B. Development Costs. The cost of improving and maintaining present civilian terminal facilities and future civilian terminal facilities will be borne by the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands.

C. Fuel Supplies. After the United States military takes over control and management of the field standard military aviation fuels and oils will be supplied as soon as they become available, subject to Federal Energy Administration allocation, on a cost basis by the Government of the United States to the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands for civil and compatible commercial aviation needs on Tinian. It is understood that provision of such

fuels and oils will not be permitted to compete with private commercial enterprises performing this service.

D. Terminal Utilities. The Government of the United States during its planning of future base facilities will take into consideration the needs of the future civilian terminal area for water, power, telephone and other utilities applicable to a terminal facility so as to make available to the civilian terminal appropriate utility hookups at the closest practicable locations to allow for civilian development of these utilities and joint use thereafter on a reimbursable basis.

E. Use of Present Facilities. The use of facilities presently in existence at the West Field location and the use of the present air strip will continue on an uninterrupted basis prior to, during and subsequent to initial construction upgrade and during any future improvement program to the greatest extent possible. There will be close coordination with the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands to insure as little hardship as possible should interruptions of the use of the present West Field and its terminal facilities be necessary for military operations such as maneuvers. The use of a runway and taxiways may be curtailed from time to time to allow appropriate and adequate construction and repair work to be accomplished. This construction and repair work will at all times be

coordinated with the civilian community so as to minimize any hardships involved.

F. United States Facilities. When an operational military airfield is established at West Field, Tinian, the United States Government will provide such aircraft and structural fire protection services and aircraft crash rescue services as are available. The cost of such services shall be borne by the United States Government, subject to charging appropriate fees for users of these services.

G. Landing Fees. At such time as the military forces permanently take over operation of West Field, commercial aircraft will be charged the minimum allowable landing fees according to the standard policy of the appropriate military department, and collection will be in accordance with the terms of the formal joint use agreement. In the interim the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands may establish and collect landing fees from all non-United States Government aircraft.

H. Access, Security and Customs.

(1) Access to the present and future civilian air terminal area will be unrestricted.

(2) Security in and around the present and future civilian air terminal and operation and maintenance of the civilian facilities will be the responsibility of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands or its representative.

(3) Customs inspections of all persons, baggage and freight will be in accord with all applicable laws and implementing regulations with the general principle established that whenever and wherever possible this customs inspection shall be performed in the military area by customs inspectors arranged for by the military and in the civilian area by customs inspectors arranged for by the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands.

PART III. SOCIAL AND CIVIL INFRASTRUCTURE ARRANGEMENTS

The following provisions, unless modified in writing by mutual agreement of the duly authorized representatives of the United States Government and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands, will govern the future relations between the United States military forces in the Northern Mariana Islands and the civil authorities thereof. Coordination on these arrangements will be accomplished through a Civil Military Advisory Council organized as soon as required after implementation of this Agreement.

1. Civilian Responsibilities. It is understood that the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands has full responsibility for planning, as well as developing, all facilities and services for the Tinian civilian community.

2. Fishing and Shoreline Activities, Tinian.
All shoreline areas in and around the northern two-thirds

of Tinian will remain open to fishermen at all possible times except for those limited areas that must be closed to comply with safety, security and hazardous risk requirements as may develop from either military activities or commercial activities.

3. Beaches, Tinian. Marianas citizens will have the same access to beach areas in the military areas of Tinian for recreational purposes as military personnel and their dependents. During times of military maneuvers, operations or related activity the use of certain beaches or areas of the beach will be restricted. Closure for such purposes, however, will be kept to a minimum consistent with military requirements in the interest of safety and security. Conduct of all personnel within the beach areas and use of these areas will be subject to applicable military regulations.

4. Utilities

A. Utilities planning will be undertaken for Tinian on an island-wide basis, taking into account reasonable projections of civilian population at the time development by the military becomes necessary. Planning accomplished by the United States will be closely coordinated with planning by the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Government of the Northern Mariana Islands will bear the cost of civilian planning by either undertaking

he planning work or reimbursing the United States for planning services.

B. The Government of the Northern Mariana Islands will take necessary action to obtain such federal funds as are available for planning pursuant to the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 and other relevant laws.

C. When utilities are constructed for military purposes the United States Government will make excess capacity of utilities available to the civilian community on Tinian on an appropriate fee basis if desired. Use of this excess capacity by the civilian community is to be without contribution into the development costs of the capacity, and the United States Government will not be expected to create or to insure any such excess capacity for the civilian community on Tinian.

D. When utilities are constructed for military purposes, additional capacity can be added subject to full payment for the incremental costs by the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands.

5. Water. Potable water will be made available to the United States military base by the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands at a mutually agreed cost.

6. Medical Care. In accordance with applicable guidelines and regulations, emergency care in military facilities established on Tinian will be provided by the

military to all residents of Tinian when available on the island. In addition medical care in military health facilities on Tinian on a non-emergency basis will be provided residents of Tinian where civilian capacity is non-existent, subject to the capacity and capability of the military and professional staff and availability of such Tinian military health facilities. Costs for all medical care will be at the prevailing reimbursement rates.

7. Fire Protection. When military firefighting facilities become necessary a mutual fire protection aid agreement similar to that type of agreement presently provided voluntarily by the military services in other locations will be entered into between the military facility on Tinian and the local community.

8. Base Exchange, Commissary and Movies. At such time as an operating base is established purchasing of commodities by the civilian community from the base exchange and commissary will be prohibited, but use of base movies by the civilian community as guests in accordance with existing regulations will be permitted.

9. Schools. Prior to the arrival of significant numbers of school age dependents of military personnel, appropriate local and federal officials will initiate such advance consultation and school development programs as necessary to secure federal assistance as may be required

or an integrated local school system adequate to provide for all stages of Tinian's development. The Department of Defense will consult with and advise the appropriate officials of the Northern Mariana Islands as soon as possible regarding such programmed arrivals.

10. Assistance to the Community. The United States Government will consider sympathetically all bona fide requests from the community or its residents for materials or technical assistance, from resources on the base, in the event local resources are insufficient to meet the community needs.

11. Economic Opportunity. To the extent practicable appropriate United States military and civilian authorities or contractors executing United States Government contracts will attempt to utilize the resources and services of people of the Northern Mariana Islands in construction, development, supply and maintenance activities in the Marianas. Further, United States military and civilian authorities will, whenever practicable, provide technical and training assistance to the people of the Northern Mariana Islands in accordance with applicable United States law to assist in their achievement of necessary skills.

PART IV. IMPLEMENTATION

This Technical Agreement will become effective

when Sections 802 and 803 of the Covenant come into force. Subordinate formal implementing agreements are to be executed as soon as possible.

Signed at Saipan, Mariana Islánds on the fifteenth day of February, 1975.

For the people of the Northern Mariana Islands:

EDWARD DLG. PANGELINAN
Chairman
Marianas Political Status Commission

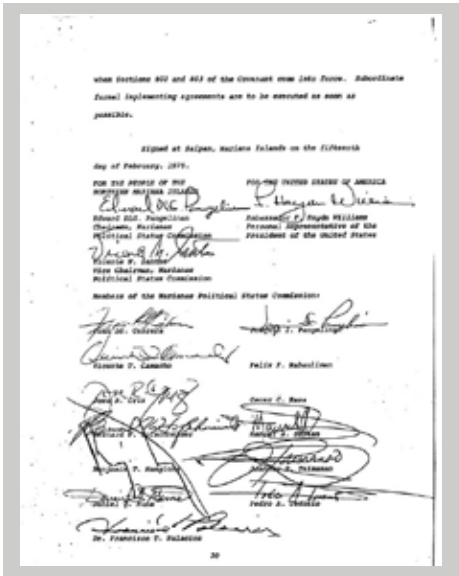
VICENTE N. SANTOS
Vice Chairman
Marianas Political Status Commission

For the United States of America:

AMBASSADOR F. HAYDN WILLIAMS
Personal Representative of the
President of the United States

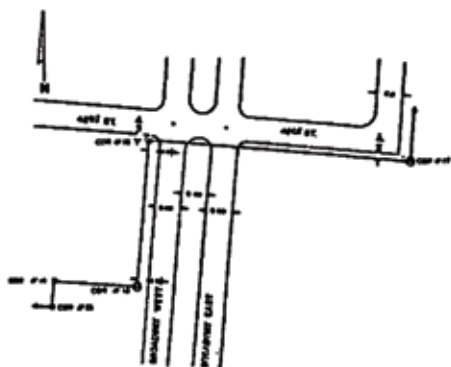
Members of the Marianas Political Status Commission:

JUAN LG. CABRERA
VICENTE T. CAMACHO
JOSE R. CRUZ
BERNARD V. HOFSCHEIDER
BENJAMIN T. MANGLONA
DANIEL T. MUNA
DR. FRANCISCO T. PALACIOS
JOAQUIN I. PANGELINAN
FELIX F. RABULIMAN
OSCAR C. RASA
MANUEL A. SABLAN
JOANNES R. TAIMANAO
PEDRO A. TENORIO



THIS IS THE OFFICIAL TEXT. THE TECHNICAL AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED AT SAIPAN, NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS ON 15 FEBRUARY 1975.

HISTORICAL MAPS

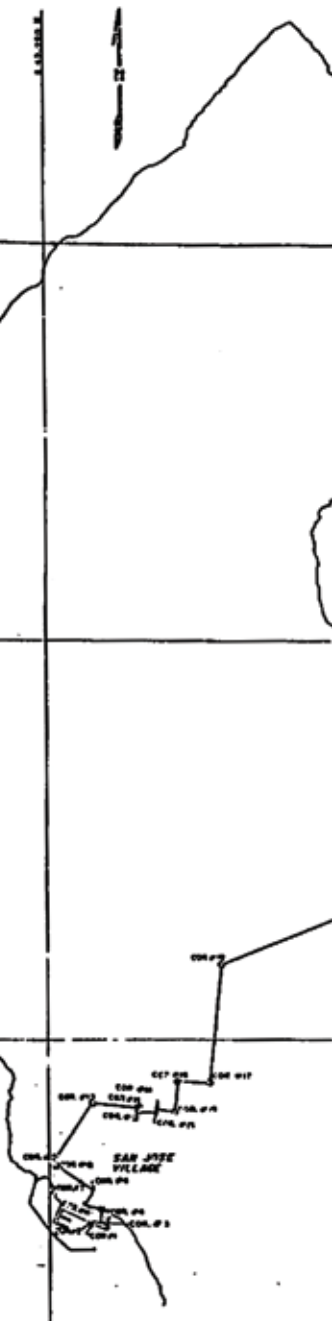


DETAIL "B" NOT TO SCALE

PACIFIC OCEAN



DETAIL "A" NOT TO SCALE



FARALLON DE MEDINILLA

MARIANA ISLANDS

Description as follows:

That certain land mass known as Farallon de Medinilla, located in the Mariana Islands group approximately 45 miles Northnortheast of Saipan Island, lying between latitudes 16 degrees 00 minutes 19.1 seconds and 16 degrees 01 minutes 41.4 seconds North and between longitudes 146 degrees 04 minutes 08.6 seconds and 146 degrees 04 minutes 58.9 seconds East, said land mass being approximately 9,200 feet (2,800 meters) long and 1,700 feet (500 meters) wide at its widest point and containing an area of approximately 206 acres (83.4 hectares).



The Story of the CNMI

Commemorating Resilience, Identity, and Progress

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) stands as a testament to the strength and adaptability of its people, a community that has weathered countless challenges while maintaining its cultural roots and striving for progress.

This commemorative theme invites us to reflect on the resilience that has defined the CNMI's journey, the complex intersection of identities, and the milestones that have shaped its present and future. From overcoming adversity to embracing self-governance and preserving cultural heritage, the CNMI's story is one of endurance, unity, and transformation.

RESILIENCE AND ADAPTABILITY

The history of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) is a complex tapestry woven from threads of resilience and adaptability, reflecting the community's profound ability to navigate adversity, foreign occupation, and shifting political dynamics with the United States.



This theme invites an exploration of not only the formidable challenges faced—ranging from colonial rule and cultural dislocation to economic upheaval and environmental threats—but also the remarkable strengths that have emerged in response. By analyzing personal narratives, communal initiatives, and cultural reinventions, we can uncover the layers of tenacity that define the CNMI, celebrating how the community has harnessed its historical experiences to foster identity, solidarity, and sustainable progress. Through this lens, we can appreciate the dual forces of struggle and strength that continue to shape the CNMI's unique identity, revealing a narrative that is both specific to this region and universally applicable as a testament to human resilience in the face of change.



BRIDGING IDENTITIES

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) stands at the crossroads of cultural intersectionality, where local, indigenous identities coexist and often intertwine with its status as a U.S. territory.

This theme explores the complexities of navigating these dual identities and how they have shaped the community's social fabric, political landscape, and cultural expression. By examining the historical, cultural, and contemporary implications of this unique positioning, we can better understand how the CNMI community has embraced, negotiated, and bridged its diverse identities.

COVENANT AND SELF-GOVERNANCE

The Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America marks a crucial juncture in the CNMI's quest for self-governance, embodying aspirations for political autonomy while acknowledging the complexities of its relationship with the U.S.



This theme invites an in-depth examination of how this landmark agreement has influenced the CNMI's political development, social dynamics, and cultural identity. By assessing the successes and challenges of exercising autonomy within the U.S. framework, we can uncover the nuanced implications of the Covenant and its role in shaping the present and future of the CNMI community.



PRESERVING CULTURAL HERITAGE

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) reflects a vibrant tapestry of cultural heritage, where the traditions, histories, and narratives of the Chamorro and Carolinian peoples, alongside other ethnic groups, form the essence of its identity.

This theme emphasizes the importance of safeguarding and celebrating this rich cultural legacy as a means of fostering community pride, resilience, and continuity. It calls for a deep exploration of how oral histories are preserved, cultural practices are demonstrated, and knowledge is transmitted to future generations. Through this lens, we can better appreciate the significance of cultural heritage in shaping not only individual identities but also the collective identity of the CNMI.

SHARED HISTORIES, SHARED FUTURES

The intertwined histories of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) and the United States trace a significant narrative that began with the U.S. involvement in World War II, a period that underscored the strategic importance of the islands and the unique experiences of the CNMI community.



This theme encourages reflection on how these historical connections have shaped not only the present identity of the CNMI but also its aspirations for the future. By delving into this shared history, we can better understand the complexities of relationship dynamics and the potential paths forward, which are informed by lessons learned from the past.

As we honor these themes, let us celebrate the enduring spirit of the CNMI's people—how their stories of struggle and triumph have forged a community that is proud of its heritage, adaptable in the face of change, and hopeful for a prosperous future. Together, we recognize not just the past, but the ongoing journey towards a shared, resilient future.



The Founding Partners

*The most dedicated and engaged partners,
driving initiatives that support, celebrate and preserve
the Commonwealth's rich cultural heritage.*



Office of the
Governor & Lt.
Governor



CNMI Legislature



Office of the Mayor
of Saipan



Office of the Mayor
of Tinian &
Aguiguan



Office of the Mayor
of Rota



Office of Indigenous
Affairs



CNMI Archives



Department of
Community and
Cultural Affairs



Office of the Mayor
of the Northern
Islands



Carolinian Affairs
Office



Northern Marianas
Humanities Council

FEATURED HISTORICAL PHOTOS





“As the Executive Director of the Northern Marianas Humanities Council and Chair of the CNMI America250 Commission, I am dedicated to preserving and celebrating the rich cultural heritage of the Commonwealth.

Through initiatives like promoting the Chamorro language and engaging in traditional seafaring practices, I strive to ensure our heritage is honored and shared with future generations.”

LEO PANGELINAN
CHAIRMAN



Corina L. Magofna
Vice Chair, CNMI America250
Commission
Senator, 24th Northern Marianas
Commonwealth Legislature



Malcom J. Omar
Representative, 24th Northern
Marianas Commonwealth
Legislature



Ramon B. Camacho
Mayor of Saipan



Edwin P. Aidan
Mayor of Tinian & Aguiguan



Aubry M. Hocog
Mayor of Rota



**Valentino N. Taisacan,
Jr.**
Mayor, Northern Islands



Frank M. Rabauliman
Secretary of the Department of
Community & Cultural Affairs



Raymond M. Muna
CNMI Archivist



Luella I. Marciano
Resident Executive, Indigenous
Affairs Office



Felix R. Nogis
Executive Assistant, Carolinian
Affairs Office

