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COMMUNICATION FROM THE FOURTH MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE
CONCERNING THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

(Circulated in accordance with rule 24 of the rules of
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TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS
FOURTH MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE
Saipan, Mariana Islands

25 February 1975

President of the Trusteeship Council
of the United Nations
United Nations
New York, 10017

Dear Mr. President:

This is to transmit, for your use and information, a copy of resolution No. 76-1975 entitled: "A resolution to approve the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America 1/ so that the people of the Northern Mariana Islands can exercise their sovereign and inalienable right of self-determination in a plebiscite."

This resolution was adopted unanimously by all 16 members of the Mariana Islands District Legislature during its regular session and after full explanation and thorough consideration of the provisions of the Covenant. It is our sincere hope that all concerned will accord this measure its due consideration.

If you have any questions concerning this resolution No. 76-1975, I'll be pleased to answer them for you.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Santiago B. MAGOFNA
Legislative Secretary

1/ For the text of the Covenant, see document T/1759.

FOURTH MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE

FIFTH REGULAR SESSION

RESOLUTION NO. 76-1975

INTRODUCED BY: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COVENANT TO ESTABLISH A COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS IN POLITICAL UNION WITH THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA SO THAT THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS CAN EXERCISE THEIR SOVEREIGN AND INALIENABLE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION IN A PLEBISCITE

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

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

WHEREAS, the Marianas Political Status Commission has conducted studies, has consulted with and made reports to the Mariana Islands District Legislature, and has negotiated for more than two years with the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Marianas Political Status Commission has approved and has presented to the Mariana Islands District Legislature the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America and related documents; and

WHEREAS, the District Legislature has carefully reviewed the Covenant and the Technical Agreement Regarding the Use of Land to Be Leased by the United States in the Northern Mariana Islands, and the other materials submitted in the February 1975 Report of the Marianas Political Status Commission; and

WHEREAS, the people of the Mariana Islands have and must be given the opportunity to exercise their sovereign and inalienable right of self-determination;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Fourth Mariana Islands District Legislature, that the Marianas Political Status Commission has properly performed its function of negotiating a close and enduring political relationship with the United States of America; and

THAT only the people of the Northern Mariana Islands can decide whether the Covenant embodies the political relationship which they desire to achieve by the exercise of their sovereign and inalienable right of self-determination; and

THAT the Mariana Islands District Legislature hereby approves the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States for submission to the people of the Northern Mariana Islands in a plebiscite; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President should certify to and the Legislative Secretary attest to the adoption hereof and thereafter transmit copies of the same to the General Assembly of the United Nations, the Trusteeship Council of the United Nations, the President of the United States, the United States Secretary of State, the United States Secretary of the Interior, members of the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs and of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the United States Congress, the High Commissioner, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of the Congress of Micronesia, United States Ambassador Franklin Haydn Williams, the Chairman of the Marianas Political Status Commission, and the District Administrator for the Mariana Islands District.

PASSED BY THE FOURTH MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE, 20 FEBRUARY 1975.

(Signed) Vicente N. SANTOS
President

(Signed) Santiago B. MAGOFNA
Legislative Secretary
