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CHAPTER 17—NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

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SUBCHAPTER I—APPROVAL OF COVENANT AND SUPPLEMENTAL PROVISIONS

§ 1801. Approval of Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

The Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America, the text of which is as follows, is hereby approved.

(Pub. L. 94-241, § 1, Mar. 24, 1976, 90 Stat. 263.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America, referred to in text, which was contained in this section (section 1 of Pub. L. 94-241), is set out as a note below.

CODIFICATION

Section was formerly set out as a note under section 1681 of this title.

TERMINATION OF TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

For termination of Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, see note set out preceding section 1681 of this title.

APPLICABILITY OF REQUIREMENT OF UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP OR NATIONALITY AS PREREQUISITE OF ANY BENEFIT, RIGHT, ETC., TO CITIZENS OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Pub. L. 98-213, §§ 17-25, Dec. 8, 1983, 97 Stat. 1463-1466, exempted citizens of Northern Mariana Islands from laws prohibiting United States Government from compensating or employing noncitizens and from requirement of United States citizenship in certain Federal laws providing Federal services or financial assistance to Northern Mariana Islands, authorized President to issue proclamations exempting citizens of Northern Mariana Islands from United States citizenship or nationality requirements of certain statutes, provided that if President failed to timely issue a proclamation, the requirement of United States citizenship or nationality as a prerequisite of any benefit, right, privilege, or immunity in any statute made applicable to the Northern Mariana Islands would not apply to citizens of the Northern Mariana Islands, provided that Pub. L. 98-213 did not extend to Northern Mariana Islands any statutory provision or regulation, particularly statutes relating to immigration and nationality, not otherwise applicable to or within Northern Mariana Islands, provided for termination of President's authority to issue proclamations upon establishment of Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, defined terms, and provided for merger of benefits acquired under Pub. L. 98-213 into those acquired by virtue of United States citizenship unless recipient exercised his privilege to become a national but not a citizen of United States.

AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR TRANSITION OF MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT TO COMMONWEALTH STATUS

Pub. L. 94-27, § 2, May 28, 1975, 89 Stat. 95, authorized appropriation of \$1,500,000 to aid in transition of Mariana Islands District to a new Commonwealth status as a territory of United States and provided that no part could be obligated or expended until Congress approved final agreement between Marianas Political Status Commission and United States.

RECITAL CLAUSES

Pub. L. 94-241 which enacted this subchapter contained several "Whereas" clauses reading as follows:

"Whereas the United States is the administering authority of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands under the terms of the trusteeship agreement for the former Japanese-mandated islands entered into by the United States with the Security Council of the United Nations on April 2, 1947, and approved by the United States on July 18, 1947; and

"Whereas the United States, in accordance with the trusteeship agreement and the Charter of the United Nations, has assumed the obligation to promote the development of the peoples of the trust territory toward self-government or independence as may be appropriate to the particular circumstances of the trust territory and its peoples and the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned; and

"Whereas the United States, in response to the desires of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands clearly expressed over the past twenty years through public petition and referendum, and in response to its own obligations under the trusteeship agreement to promote self-determination, entered into political status negotiations with representatives of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands; and

"Whereas, on February 15, 1975, a 'Covenant to Establish A Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America' [set out below] was signed by the Marianas Political Status Commission for the people of the Northern Mar-