

The Compact of Free Association

PUBLIC LAW 99-239 - JAN. 14, 1986

COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION ACT OF 1985

Public Law 99-239
99th Congress

Joint Resolution

To approve the "Compact of Free Association", and for other purposes.

Whereas the United States, in accordance with the Trusteeship Agreement, the Charter of the United Nations and the objective of the international trusteeship system, has promoted the development of the peoples of the Trust Territory toward self-government or independence as 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 peoples of the Federated States of Micronesia and the Marshall Islands expressed through their freely-elected representatives and by the official pronouncements and enactments of their lawfully constituted governments, and in consideration of its own obligations under the Trusteeship Agreement to promote self-determination, entered into political status negotiations with representatives of the peoples of the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Marshall islands; and

Whereas these negotiations resulted in the "Compact of Free Association" which, together with its related agreements, was signed by the United States and by the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands on October 1, 1982 and June 25, 1983, respectively; and

Whereas the Compact of Free Association was approved by majorities of the peoples of the Federated States of Micronesia and the Marshall islands in United Nations-observed plebiscites conducted on June 21, 1983 and September 7, 1983, respectively; and
Whereas the Compact of Free Association has been approved by the Governments of the

Federated States of Micronesia and the Marshall Islands in accordance with their respective constitutional processes, thus completing fully for the Federated States of Micronesia and the Marshall Islands their domestic approval processes with respect to the Compact as contemplated in Compact Section 411: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE AND TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.** - This joint resolution, together with the Table of Contents in subsection (b) of this section, may be cited as the "Compact of Free Association Act of 1985".

(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.** - The table of contents for this joint resolution is as follows: *(see navigation bar at left for contents)*.

TITLE I-APPROVAL OF COMPACT; INTERPRETATION OF, AND U.S. POLICIES REGARDING, COMPACT; SUPPLEMENTAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 101. APPROVAL OF COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION.

(a) **FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA.** - The Compact of Free Association set forth in title II of this joint resolution between the United States and the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia is hereby approved, and Congress hereby consents to the subsidiary agreements as set forth on pages 115 through 391 of House Document 98-192 of March 30, 1984, as they relate to such Government. Subject to the provisions of this joint resolution, the President is authorized to agree, in accordance with section 411 of the Compact, to an effective date for and thereafter to implement such Compact, having taken into account any procedures with respect to the United Nations for termination of the Trusteeship Agreement.

(b) **MARSHALL ISLANDS.** - The Compact of Free Association set forth in title II of this joint resolution between the United States and the Government of the Marshall Islands is hereby approved, and Congress hereby consents to the subsidiary agreements as set forth on pages 115 through 391 of House Document 98-192 of March 30, 1984, as they relate to such Government. Subject to the provisions of this joint resolution, the President is authorized to agree, in accordance with section 411 of the Compact, to an effective date for and thereafter to implement such Compact, having taken into account any procedures with respect to the United Nations for termination of the Trusteeship Agreement.

such defense sites is guilty of any act or omission which, although not made punishable by any enactment of Congress, would be punishable if committed or omitted within the jurisdiction of the State of Hawaii by the laws thereof, in force at the time of such act or omission, shall be guilty of a like offense and subject to a like punishment.

(3) The United States District Court for the District of Hawaii shall have jurisdiction to try all criminal offenses against the United States, including the laws of the State of Hawaii made applicable to the defense sites in the Marshall Islands or the Federated States of Micronesia by virtue of paragraph (2) of this subsection, committed by any person referred to in subsection (a) of this section.

(4) The United States District Court for the District of Hawaii may appoint one or more magistrates for the defense sites in the Marshall Islands. Such Magistrates shall have the power and the status of Magistrates appointed pursuant to chapter 43, title 28, United States Code, provided, however that such Magistrates shall have the power to try persons accused of and sentence persons convicted of petty offenses, as defined in section 1(3), title 18, United States Code, including violations of regulations for the maintenance of peace, order, and health issued by the Commanding Officer on such defense sites, without being subject to the restrictions provided for in section 3401(b), title 18, United States Code.

TITLE III - PACIFIC POLICY REPORTS

SEC. 301. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds that -

(1) the United States does not have a clearly defined policy for United States noncontiguous Pacific areas (including the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, Guam, the State of Hawaii, and the State of Alaska) and for United States-associated noncontiguous Pacific areas (including the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, and Palau);

(2) the Federal Government has often failed to consider the implications for, effects on, and potential of noncontiguous Pacific areas in the formulation and conduct of foreign and domestic policy, to the detriment of both the attainment of the objectives of Federal policy and noncontiguous Pacific areas;

(3) policies and programs designed for the United States as a whole may impose inappropriate standards on noncontiguous Pacific areas because of their unique circumstances and needs; and

(4) the present Federal organizational arrangements for liaison with (and providing assistance to) the insular areas may not be adequate -

(A) to coordinate the delivery of Federal programs and services to noncontiguous Pacific areas;

(B) to provide a consistent basis for administration of programs;

(C) to adapt policy to the special requirements of each area and modify the application of Federal programs, laws, and regulations accordingly;

(D) to be responsive to the Congress in the discharge of its responsibilities; and

(E) to attain the international obligations of the United States.

SEC. 302. REPORTS.

(a) **SUBMISSION.** - Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this joint resolution and each five years thereafter, the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall submit to the Congress and the President a report on United States noncontiguous Pacific areas policy together with such recommendations as may be necessary to accomplish the objectives of such policy.

(b) **CONTENT.** - The reports required in subsection (a) of this section shall set forth clearly defined policies regarding United States, and United States associated, noncontiguous Pacific areas, including -

(1) the role of and impacts on the noncontiguous Pacific areas in the formulation and conduct of foreign policy;

(2) the applicability of standards contained in Federal laws, regulations, and programs to the noncontiguous Pacific areas and any modifications which may be necessary to achieve the intent of such laws, regulations, and programs consistent with the unique character of the noncontiguous Pacific areas;

(3) the effectiveness of the Federal executive organizational arrangements for -

(A) providing liaison between the Federal Government and the governments of the noncontiguous Pacific areas;

(B) coordinating Federal actions in a manner which recognizes the unique circumstances and needs of the noncontiguous Pacific areas; and

(C) achieving the objective of Federal policy and ensuring that the Congress receives the information necessary to discharge its responsibilities; and

(4) actions which may be needed to facilitate the economic and social health and development of the noncontiguous Pacific areas, consistent with their self-determined objectives.

SEC. 303. CONFERENCE.

(a) MEETING. - Prior to submitting the reports required under section 302(b), the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall convene a conference to obtain the views of the noncontiguous Pacific areas on the matters required to be addressed in such reports.

(b) PARTICIPANTS. - Representatives of each of the noncontiguous Pacific areas; and the heads of all executive departments and agencies, and other public and private organizations concerned with the noncontiguous Pacific areas as requested by the Secretary of the Interior shall be entitled to be participants in the conference.

(c) WRITTEN COMMENTS. - The Secretary of the Interior shall afford participants in the conference an opportunity to submit written comments for inclusion in the reports required under section 302.

SEC. 304. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS.

(a) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT. - The Secretary of the Interior shall provide all necessary administrative support to accomplish the requirements of sections 302 and 303.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS. - There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this title.

TITLE IV: CLARIFICATION OF CERTAIN TRADE AND TAX PROVISIONS OF THE COMPACT

SEC. 401. FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES TARIFF TREATMENT.

(a) SECTION 242. - Section 242 of the Compact shall be construed and applied as if it