

Commonwealth should be an option

Public Law 23-147 established the Guam Commission on Decolonization and mandated the upcoming Chamorro-only political status plebiscite.

The Commission has cited Resolution 1541, passed in 1960, as the legal basis for limiting the vote to only three options — statehood, free association and independence. Resolution 1541 also directs that these options be chosen by “universal adult suffrage,” but that is another issue.

If you access the Internet, at <http://www.un.org/Depts/dpi/decolonization/trust4.htm>, you will find this statement: “Became fully self-governing as Commonwealth of the United States in 1990.”

The political status of the CNMI would seem to suggest that Resolution 1541 notwithstanding, commonwealth is an option acceptable in meeting United Nations’ requirements for self-determination.

Perhaps the CNMI’s meeting the re-

quirements of self-determination, despite Resolution 1541, may be explained in a subsequent United Nations' resolution. Consider Resolution 2625 (xxv):

“The Declaration of International Law Governing Friendly Relations and Cooperation Among States...”

The Resolution presents these political status options: “(1) the establishment of a sovereign and independent state, (2) free association or (3) integration with another state, or (4) the emergence into any other political status freely determined by a people.”

In reviewing Resolution 2625, you could argue that a freely chosen commonwealth can certainly meet the United Nations' requirement and self-determination.

Commonwealth was the choice of the people in an earlier plebiscite, and it seems strange that politicians deep-sixed that choice without ever consulting the people.

If PL 23-147 is not flawed in disenfranchising half the electorate, then it is certainly flawed by limiting the status options it presents to the voters.

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Is something bugging you? Or are you looking for a way to recognize someone who's making life better? Send us your thoughts. But make sure to send your name (no pen names, please), village of residence and a phone number where we can reach you during the day.

Longing for Guam independence

My first order of the day was my coffee and the newspaper. As I paged through the Pacific Daily News, I was overcome with strong feelings of excitement and sadness at the same time.

I was excited by a number of the pages