

PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION NO. 09-94

Proclaiming Independence with the United States of America

WHEREAS, the people of Palau have long cherished a goal of regaining their sovereignty and independence during over a century of foreign administration which has involved the nations of Spain, Germany, Japan and, starting in 1947 when Palau became a United Nations Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, the United States; and

WHEREAS, in the early 1980s the Government of the Republic of Palau began bilateral political status negotiations with the Government of the United States of America culminating in a Compact of Free Association and associated agreements being agreed to between the Government of the Republic of Palau and the Government of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, on November 9, 1993 the people of the Republic of Palau, in an act of self-determination, approved the Compact of Free Association by an overwhelming 68% majority vote; and

WHEREAS, in May 1994 the United Nations Trusteeship Council issued a Resolution requesting the Government of the United States, in consultation with the Government of Palau, to agree on a date on or about October 1, 1994 for the full entry into force of the Compact of Free Association, and in July 1994 the President of the United States, Bill Clinton, reaffirmed October 1, 1994, as the effective date of the Compact provided that all legal challenges to the Compact had been resolved and they have been so resolved; and

WHEREAS, the Compact has been democratically and freely entered into by an overwhelming majority of citizens of Palau who have decided that the Compact is in the best interests of the people of Palau;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kuniwo Nakamura, by the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Palau, do hereby find, declare and proclaim as follows:

1. That, all of the requirements of the laws of the Republic of Palau and the Compact of Free Association and associated agreements have been met and the people of Palau have freely chosen to enter into the Compact, and that therefore the Republic of Palau and its people are a sovereign and independent nation in free association with the United States of America as of one minute past one o'clock post meridian, on October 1, 1994, Palau local time.

2. That, as of the above time and date, the Compact of Free Association is in full force and effect as to the Republic of Palau.

3. To the nations of the world, that the Republic of Palau and its people shall be a friend and shall abide by the rules of international law as a good citizen of the international community of nations.

4. To our neighbors in the Pacific, that the Republic of Palau and its people desire to live in peace with you and to sustain our great maritime environment and that we will recognize your borders as we ask you to recognize ours.

5. To the United Nations and the United States of America, that the Republic of Palau and its people express our appreciation for your assistance and support in Palau's journey to independence in free association with the United States.

SO PROCLAIMED this 1st day of October, 1994 in the State of Koror, Republic of Palau.

/s/

Kuniwo Nakamura
President of the Republic of Palau