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GUAM IN U.S. GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS*

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The tropical island of Guam, southernmost in the Mariana archipelago, has been an American possession since Spain ceded it to the United States, along with the Philippines and Puerto Rico, as the spoils of the Spanish American War, pursuant to the 1898 Treaty of Paris. More than 6,000 miles west-southwest of Los Angeles, Guam is only 1,500 miles from Manila and Tokyo. Under the U.S. Navy, Guam was controlled by a military governor from 1898, except for a brief interlude during World War II, 1941–1944, when it was occupied by the Japanese. President Harry Truman transferred administration to the Department of the Interior in 1950.

Guam remains an organized, unincorporated territory with limited self-government under the Guam Organic Act (Public Law 81-630, as amended). Guam residents elect their own governor and legislators, and send a single nonvoting delegate to the U.S. Congress. A bill is currently before Congress to upgrade the political status to that of a U.S. commonwealth (introduced in Congress in 1988 as H.R. 4100, and in 1989 and 1991 as H.R. 98). Hearings were held on the bill in December 1989 in Honolulu, in August and December 1991 in San Francisco, and in October 1991 in Washington, D.C. Additional talks are anticipated.

At just over 200 square miles (about one-sixth the size of Rhode Island), Guam is not a large island. It is, however, the largest land mass among the more than 2,100 palm tree-studded islands, islets, and coral atolls of Micronesia, a region of the Western North

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