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# Micronesian Senator 'backs free association'

Micronesians don't want to be "permanently associated" with the United States, but they want to keep the United States as a financial and ideological big brother. "Free association" is what they want.

"We want to stay with the United States, but we want a relationship that can be terminated or changed later

croneans are still at an "impasse" with Washington in regards to their "free association" proposal.

"But I think this period of impasse is being used to good advantage on both sides," said Sali.

"The Micronesian Congress made its position known to the United States, so the next step should come from the United States.

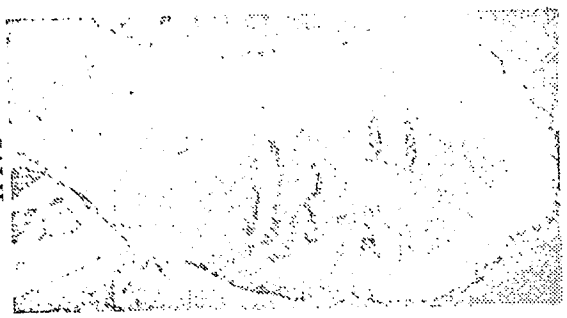
"I hope that Washington will examine its position in light of the decision of the Congress of Micronesia."

**IF A DECISION** is reached, by a special inter-agency committee of the U.S. Department of the Interior, Sali doesn't expect it to be announced until after this year's national elections.

Sali of possible future U.S.-Micronesia "free association":

"It would be good, because it gives the former territory a safety valve. In the event that it doesn't get proper treatment from the metropolitan country, it can exercise its option to break the relationship and join another nation or become a sovereign, independent state.

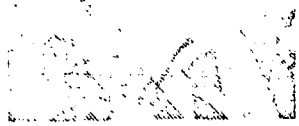
"But we hope, to be associated with the United States, because we feel that we have the best ally in the United States of all the countries we might possibly choose from. Not only in terms of financial assistance, but also because of ideological reasons."



SALI

on," Micronesian Senator Kazeras Sali said yesterday.

S. 33, who is in Honolulu in connection with the fight for independence in Fiji Friday, had maps during an



## SALII

on," Micronesian Senator Lazarus Salii said yesterday.

Salii, 33, who is in Honolulu en route to independence ceremonies in Fiji Friday, made his remarks during an interview.

"Free association," a concept outlined in a resolution endorsed by the Congress of Micronesia at its third regular session in August in Saipan, endorses four political principles. They are:

○ "That sovereignty in Micronesia resides with the people and the government of Micronesia.

○ "That the people of Micronesia possess the right of self-determination and therefore may choose independence or self government in 'free association' with any nation or organization of nations.

○ "That the people of Micronesia have a right to adopt their own constitution.

○ "That free association should be in the form of a revocable compact, terminable unilaterally by either party."

**THE FOUR-POINT** "free association" policy resolution was adopted by a 30 to 3 vote of the Congress of Micronesia following its rejection of a U.S. offer of a commonwealth status which, in effect, would have made Micronesia an American territory.

Salii, president of the Congress' future status committee, said at that time:

"The commonwealth status would make us a part—a permanent part—of the United States political family. But we are Micronesians and not Americans.

"We can be friends of America as America indeed has sometimes befriended us. But what is being offered to us is not friendship and it is not partnership. It is ownership, friendly ownership for the time being, but ownership nonetheless."

**SALII AND HIS** fellow Mi-