

PRESS COVERAGE

MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS

HANA, MAUI, HAWAII

OCTOBER 4 - 12, 1971

woes beset Trust Territory student

By JERRY BURRIS
Advertiser Staff Writer

Moses Uludong, a Micronesian student in political science at Chaminade College, says he is running out of money and patience.

He is without an expected \$700 scholarship, "terminated" from his job here, and facing trial on his home island of Palau on charges of libel and disturbing the peace. He claims it's all because of his role as an agitator for Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands independence.

The Hawaii and national offices of the American Civil Liberties Union have expressed interest in Uludong's case, but have not yet taken any action on it.

EDWARD E. JOHNSTON, Trust Territory high commissioner, refused to be drawn into the matter.

"His credibility is such I wouldn't want to comment on it," Johnston told a reporter, speaking of Uludong.

Uludong said his troubles began with an anonymous letter received by Thomas Remengesau, district administrator on Palau. Signed by the "Micronesian Revolutionary Forces," the letter indirectly threatened the life of Ambassador Franklin H. Williams, President Nixon's representative at talks with Trust Territory leaders about the future political status of the islands.

On July 14, while he was home on Palau for vacation, Uludong was arrested and told he was suspected of writing the letter. His arrest coincided with the arrival of Williams on Palau for a fact-finding tour.

ULUDONG SAID that although he does not know who wrote the letter, he knows it was written "in

frustration." He believes it should not have been taken seriously.

The following day, he was released on bail. Five days later, the court allowed him to leave Palau with the understanding he would return to face trial next summer.

Uludong said that when he returned to Honolulu, he found a telegram from the Trust Territory Department of Education informing him his job as Trust Territory Student Coordinator in Honolulu was "terminated."

THE MICRONESIAN student said he eventually was told he was let go because he was away from his job here for the vacation on Palau. But he claims he asked

for and received permission for the trip.

Until recently Uludong was still expecting his other source of money, a \$700 Education Assistance Grant from the Trust Territory. He had received a form letter July 7 "awarding" the money to him and asking for a letter of acceptance.

By Chaminade registration date, the money had still not come. So Uludong registered with the understanding he would repay the school \$545 in fees after his scholarship check arrived.

Eventually, Uludong phoned Saipan and was told the scholarship request had been turned down "after a final review," he said. He obtained no clear explanation why the offer was revoked.

"THE FINANCIAL officer at Chaminade has written the Trust Territory Administration about the scholar-



ULUDONG

ship. But I don't know when they'll get an answer," Uludong said. Meanwhile, the school has promised to find Uludong a work-study grant, but no job has been found so far.

Asked about Uludong's failure to win the scholarship, High Commissioner Johnston said, "You have to realize, there aren't enough to go around." He said only one out of every three Micronesian students who apply for the scholarships receive them.

BUT ULUDONG claims his arrest and harassment were due to his active role in the Micronesian independence movement. He and his brother, Francisco, have spoken and written strongly about independence in the Trust Territory and in Hawaii.

Micronesia, U.S. to open new round of status talks

By JERRY BURRIS

Advertiser Staff Writer

Talks between the U.S. Government and the people of Micronesia, which could determine the political future of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, will begin in Hawaii Oct. 4.

The discussions between a 12-member joint committee of the Congress of Micronesia and an American delegation headed by Ambassador Franklin Haydn Williams will be at Hana, Maui. They are expected to last 10 days.

It will be the first such talks in nearly a year and a half. The last discussions, largely unsuccessful, were held in May 1970 on Saipan.

Most of the Micronesian delegation is expected to arrive tomorrow night. Sen. Lazarus Sali of Palau, chairman of the committee, is in California and will arrive Monday afternoon.

WILLIAMS and the U.S. delegation are expected in Hawaii next Friday.

The Micronesian group will devote most of next week to pre-conference talks at the Ala Moana Hotel; the aim is a unified position.

Williams, head of the Asia Foundation, is President Nixon's special representative at the talks. Other American delegates will represent the Departments of State, Interior and Defense.

The Micronesian delegation represents all six districts in the Trust Territory.

Micronesia has been a "strategic trust territory" under the United States

since the end of World War II. The talks at Hana—third in a series which began in 1969—are aimed at changing the political status of Micronesia.

THE OFFICIAL position of the Congress of Micronesia is for a "free association" that would give Micronesia full control of its government and lands. The U.S. would take charge of foreign policy and defense.

It is understood, however, that some minority elements of the Micronesian group favor complete independence, and others would like to see quite close ties to the U.S.

The United States has offered Micronesia a status akin to that of Puerto Rico. Micronesians would have internal self government and an opportunity to become American citizens.

However, the U.S. would extend its Federal Court system to include the Trust Territory, would control postal, defense and banking matters, foreign policy, and would have a right to land in the islands when necessary for "public purposes."

IT IS THIS matter of land control that has caused deadlocks in the past. Some observers think the presence of Williams—who was not at the previous talks—may indicate a change in the U.S. position.

Sali and Rep. Ekpap Silk of the Marshalls are co-chairmen of the Micronesian dele-

gation. Other members are Sens. Andon Amaraich of Truk, Isaac Lenwi of the Marshalls, Tosiwo Nakayama of Truk, Bailey Olter of Ponape, Petrus Tun of Yap, Roman Tmetuchl of Palau and Edward Pangelinan of the Marianas.

Also, Reps. John Mangefel of Yap, Olter Paul of Ponape and Herman Q. Guerrero of the Marianas.

Micronesia talks here in Asia shadow

Today the Advertiser begins a new column on developments in the Pacific area. The purpose is not to present news, which should be elsewhere in the paper. Nor is it to be especially profound. Rather, it is to bring together items that may be of importance or interest, as we see it, about the island area and Asia. Ideas on such subjects are welcome.

By JOHN GRIFFIN

those talks on the Trust

It is the fate of the Pacific Trust Territory that the question of its future political status is both obscured by and related to larger and more dramatic events in Asia.

So it is now as teams of Micronesian and American negotiators prepare for a third and perhaps vital round of talks in early October at Hana, Maui.

Understandably, the headlines will be going to such events as the maneuvering to get China into the U.N., what's going on in Peking, the economic squabble with Japan, and South Vietnam's non-election.

In fact, the Micronesia status talks are to be in private by mutual agreement. Remote Hana was picked (by the American side which is paying the bill at the expensive hotel) because it offers special solitude from the press or any protesting students.

BUT NONE OF this should obscure the fact that for both sides there is a need to break the deadlock which has existed since the talks began two years ago.

A dozen members of the Congress of Micronesia make up one committee. They will be meeting with staff members and advisers here next week before flying to Maui.

The official Micronesian position is for a future status called "free association," which would mean internal self-government and ownership of their islands but with the U.S. handling defense and foreign affairs. A minority of the Micronesian committee leans toward either more independence or (in the Marianas) to U.S. territorial status.

The U.S. is said to be sending a 15-member delegation of State, Defense and Interior Department officials and others. It is headed by President Nixon's personal representative, special Ambassador Franklin Haydn Williams.

The Americans have offered a form of U.S. territorial status called a "commonwealth," which might be akin to what Puerto Rico has. It has been rejected, and there are reports the U.S. will be coming in with some compromise ideas — a minimum if the talks are to get anywhere.

IN A SIMPLIFIED sense, then, the differences may involve Washington concern for Pacific security (bases or keeping others out) and Micronesian concern for sover-

eignty, the right to own their islands and control their lives.

The two concepts have only been mutually exclusive in the eyes of American defense planners and some (but not all) advocates of Micronesian independence.

It's tempting to say this third series of talks will be a showdown session, that time is running out for both sides, as the post Vietnam fallback approaches.

But what may be more likely is that the Maui talks will be the first of a conclusive series of meetings. With luck, they may reach some broad agreement that will have many hurdles to pass in Micronesia and Washington.

STILL, EVEN IF it's shaded by secrecy and other events, what happens on Maui starting Oct. 4 will say a lot about American morality in a changing Pacific.

It would be bitter irony if a Nixon Administration that seeks to leave Vietnam and find a new era in China relations can't see the need for imaginative policy toward 100,000 people we rule in trust.

movies & adult age

I've forgotten just what Margaret Mead told us about coming of age, but it's long been held that children mature earlier in tropical areas than do their counterparts in temperate zones.

Apparently this gets reflected in movie ratings. The cut-off point for our R and X ratings is 18 years old. But in Fiji they have both a Y rating for persons 14 and older and an A classification for those 17 and up.

Western Samoa is even looser. A recent ad in the Samoa Times noted that admission was "restricted to persons 13 years and over."

All of this is very relative, of course, since some of the pictures we rate R or even GP might not even be allowed on other islands.

Still maybe Samoa has something we don't. An ad for "Perils of Laurel & Hardy" said "Adults must be accompanied by a child."

dock strike's impact

You get some idea of how the Pacific is tied together with word that the West Coast dock strike is a factor in a sharp and damaging decline in copra prices in the islands.

It may not mean much here except to the benefit of local users of coconut products, but for most of the island groups the dried meat used for oil and animal feed remains the biggest cash export crop.

Even in Fiji where cane is king and tourism is growing,

the coconut industry is still the third largest and especially important to the Fijians who have let the immigrant Indians grow most of the sugar.

Now there are warnings from there that big plantations may lay off workers if prices drop any lower in world markets.

The Fiji government news bulletin says the U.S. West Coast dock strike caused disruption and that big exporters in the Philippines have been forced to try and re-route shipments to Europe. Other factors listed are abundant copra supplies and uncertainty about the U.S. dollar rate of exchange.

Pago's press problems

American Samoa's problems are getting around among the U.S. press, which won't make some officials down there happy but might have some beneficial results.

A mid-September issue of Straus Editor's Report, a newsletter for media executives, says:

"Press freedom has kept a shaky toehold in the mid-Pacific Territory of American Samoa, thanks to two U.S. judges who have blocked the appointed governor, John Hayden, from deporting the one newspaper editor critical of his regime. The editor, Jake King, thus may continue lambasting Hayden in the weekly Samoa News."

In the long run, however, that particular personal feud between men of strong feelings is less important than the development of Samoa. Which would include political development so more Samoans can take over, all the way up to governor. That may be how Hayden will ultimately be judged.

In the meantime, the dispute has at least notified U.S. editors that both AP and UPI news reports from Pago Pago come from government public information men—a situation everyone should be encouraged to change as fast as possible.

Micronesian Parley Set for Hana

A high level conference concerning the future political status of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands will be held Oct. 4 in Hana, Maui, the office of Micronesian Affairs in Washington announced today.

The Star-Bulletin reported last week that Hana was being scouted as a possible site for the talks between the U.S. Government and the people of Micronesia.

A security check was conducted on the Island of Maui.

Gardiner B. Jones, editor

of the Pacific News Service, and Webster K. Nolan, features editor of the Star-Bulletin, outlined America's unkept promise to the Micronesians in an exclusive series in this newspaper in July.

They said that "25 years ago the United States promised the United Nations to prepare Micronesia for self-government and permit it to make a free choice of political destiny, including independence.

"The promise remains unkept," they said.

COLEMAN OPTIMISTIC ABOUT STATUS TALKS

Saipan, (MNS) - Trust Territory Deputy High Commissioner

Peter T. Coleman said Friday (Sept. 17) that he was pleased to learn officially this week that negotiations between the Congress of Micronesia and the United States on the future political status of the Trust Territory will resume next month in Hawaii.

Senator Lazarus Salii, chairman of the Congress' Joint Committee on Future Status, announced on Wednesday (Sept. 15) that the third round of discussions on status will begin Monday, October 4 in Hawaii.

Coleman indicated that the office of Ambassador Franklin Haydn Williams in Washington, D.C. had confirmed the announcement by telephone. Ambassador Williams, who was named by President Nixon early this year to be his personal representative to the discussions, will head the U.S. negotiating delegation.

The Deputy HiCom expressed the hope that the resumption of the talks will be a step toward working out a mutually satisfactory relationship between Micronesia and the U.S. He further stated that he is optimistic about the negotiations.

The last time the two sides met together was in May, 1970 on Saipan. That was before the appointment of Ambassador Williams. Following those meetings, the Congress of Micronesia issued a report which stated that the Congress favored a status of "free association" with the U.S., with independence as a second alternative.

The United States, the report said, had offered a status of commonwealth similar to that of Puerto Rico. This was rejected as unacceptable by the Congress of Micronesia. There has been no official change in the positions of the two sides relative to future status since that time.

HICKEL AND MICRONESIA

Former Interior Secretary Walter Hickel's new book, "Who Owns America," seems bound to stir controversy as the frank memoirs of a "bad guy" who became an environmental and youth-culture hero and got fired by President Nixon for his troubles.

But, in all the past and present attention given Hickel, very little has gone to the fact that as Interior Secretary he also resided over the vestiges of American colonialism, including the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands which we rule under United Nations mandate.

HICKEL NOT only made the unusual gesture of going to Trust Territory—the first secretary to do so—he also proclaimed some needed program advancements, including bringing more Micronesians into the islands' administration.

He deserves credit for that although he subsequently was preoccupied elsewhere and the Micronesia situation has been dominated by the deadlock over future political status.

In fact, it is that political deadlock that again comes to the fore in his book at a crucial time.

For, according to an Associated Press account, among the eye-catching quotations in the Hickel book is this one:

"National security adviser Henry M. Kissinger, arguing against a pledge of full compensation for land taken from residents of the U.S. Trust Territory of the Pacific" "There are only 90,000 people out there. Who gives a damn?"

THIS COMES OUT at a time when U.S. and Micronesian negotiators are scheduled to meet in Hawaii (at Hana, Maui) starting Oct. 4.

The talks have long been deadlocked, with the U.S. offering a kind of glorified territorial status and the Micronesians asking for a form of semi-independence and internal self-government called "free association."

One of the key issues is Micronesian demands for ultimate control over their own land—and it is not hard to imagine what some Micronesian thoughts must be about Kissinger's reported statement.

In that context, the Hickel book may not help the climate for negotiations, unless the U.S. is prepared to substantially alter its attitude, as it should do.

BUT THE REAL problem is that attributed to Kissinger have dominated too much high-level American thinking about the vast central Pacific area.

We may have legitimate strategic concerns for bases, or at least not having other nations' bases there. But we have a high moral obligation to give more than a damn to the people who really own those islands.

The Micronesians have offered a plan that could protect both their and our interests. It is selfish outdated thinking in Washington that more than anything has prevented agreement, and it may be another Hickel contribution that he underscores that point.

MICRONESIA: CRUNCH IS ON ITS WAY

It'll be a crucial meeting. If those talks break down, it's possible that by next January the Congress of Micronesia will decide on a unilateral declaration of independence.

It's taken more than twelve months for the two parties to agree to get together and break the stalemate over the Trust Territory of Micronesia's political future. Last year Micronesians asked for self-government in free association with the U.S., and were rejected by Washington. The Micronesians in turn rejected an American proposal that they take Commonwealth status, rather like the Puerto Rico kind.

The plantation locale is designed to be neutral, and private, with no pressures from outside. The US delegation will meet members of the Congress of Micronesia's Joint Committee on Future Status.

What developments have there been on either side in the last 12 months? The Micronesian attitude seems to have toughened.

The status committee leaders in May flirted with the UN Committee of Twenty Four, as a signal to Washington that they are prepared to pull in help from that radical quarter if necessary. At the same time, other members of the committee hurried to Japan to discuss they said, what help Micronesia could expect from there should Micronesia become independent.

Again this move was aimed at twisting an arm, of the US. Washington is well aware, and not happy, about the swift increase in Japanese economic pressures in the Pacific Islands.

Japanese tourists are flooding into Guam and spilling over into every Trust Territory island, and Japanese tourist plant would like to invest in the TT, as in Guam. It can't because at present non-American investment in the TT is not permitted by law.

President Nixon's current attack on the yen is an indication of what the US believes it has to fear from growing Japanese economic strength.

The Micronesian Congress is quite capable of using both the threat of Japan and UN intervention to bring Washington to its senses.

Washington appears to be in a better position to come to terms than it was 12 months ago, when Departments of Defense, State and Interior all took different views on what should be done about Micronesia. The Defense Department's view that Micronesia was needed for strategic purposes is believed to have been the major reason for Washington's decision to offer nothing better than Commonwealth status.

But there has been an awareness in Washington recently that America's and Micronesia's views on defense requirements are not necessarily in conflict. It is really a matter of American deciding what, specifically, it wants--it probably needs no more than access to the Marianas---and then coming to some treaty arrangement to preclude the TT from being used by any other military power.

It is not seen as likely that Micronesia would object. Even an independent Micronesia would probably agree to bases in its territory so long as it had some degree of control over them, and American allows this control in other countries now.

In short, defense problems are not now seen in some quarters as being insurmountable (America could even propose that all Pacific Islands be neutralised).

A swift solution is seen as being far more important, for delay will enable pressures to build against America from inside and outside Micronesia and a solution satisfactory to the US might then be impossible to achieve.

Micronesia leader says talks 'crucial'; independence eyed.

Micronesia will begin moves toward independence if talks aimed at settling the political future of the Trust Territory of the Pacific break down, the chief Micronesian delegate to the talks said yesterday.

Lazarus Salii, cochairman of the Congress of Micronesia's Joint Committee on Future Status, told The Advertiser yesterday, "It's the crucial round of talks.

"Either we come up with something or we go on to independence. There is no alternate route."

THE TALKS — third in a series — begin Monday at Hana, Maui. The U.S. delegation is headed by Ambassador Franklin Haydn Williams, personal representative of President Nixon.

The crucial issue, Salii said, is the right of Micronesia to control its own land.

"The U.S. has to give up its powers of eminent domain in Micronesia," Salii said.

IN PREVIOUS talks, the United States has offered Micronesia a commonwealth status similar to that of Puerto Rico. Salii made it clear that would not be acceptable to the 12-member Micronesian delegation.

"We have to have the option to break away," he said.

The Congress of Micronesia has suggested a "free association" status, which would allow the United States to handle international matters — primarily defense — while Micronesia would have complete internal sovereignty.



Advertiser Photo by David Yamad

Micronesian conference is in jammed room. Salii is at far right.

THE MICRONESIAN position, Salii said, is based on four points.

1. Micronesia has the right to self-determination.

2. Micronesian lands should be returned to Micronesian control, and that includes military-held lands.

3. Micronesia should have the right to structure its own government and write its own constitution without restraints by the U.S.

4. Micronesia must have the right to break away from any agreement.

SALII SAID he believes Micronesia would be willing to consider making land exclusively available to the U.S. for military use on a rental or lease basis.

Such an agreement would be founded on an offer of

American "assistance" in one form or another, he said.

The Micronesian delegation

has been meeting all week in a conference room at the Ala Moana Hotel with the three academic advisers to their group. The purpose has been to work out a unified position on the multitude of issues involved in a change of political status.

SALII ADMITTED there were members of the Micronesian delegation — particularly from the Marianas — who favor much closer ties with the U.S. And others are ready right now for independence.

"But the committee is unanimous while they're here as members of the committee," he said.

Salii and vice chairman Ekpap Silk are scheduled to meet informally with Williams tomorrow.

All delegates will fly to Hana Sunday. Salii said he hoped the conference would last no more than 10 days.

STATUS COMMITTEE IN HAWAII

Saipan, (MNS) - Members of the Congress of Micronesia Joint Committee on Future Status are presently in Honolulu holding a series of preliminary meetings in advance of the status negotiations scheduled to resume next week.

The committee and the negotiating team representing the United States will re-open discussions about the future political status of Micronesia at a hotel in Hana, on the Hawaiian Island of Maui, Monday, October 4.

Several members of the committee were honored at an airport reception at Majuro Sunday (Sept. 26) as they prepared to depart for Honolulu. According to "WSZO Radio News" in Majuro, Marshalls District Administrator Oscar DeBum and a large crowd of local citizens were at the airport to greet the Micronesian Status Delegation.

In a short ceremony at the Airport, Distad DeBum said, "We share with the committee members our hopes and prayers that the trip to Hawaii will be a successful one. We also share with our brothers throughout Micronesia who did not join us here

today this same spirit of cooperation in wishing the committee the best of luck."

Marshalls Representative Ekpap Silk, Co-chairman of the status committee, gave a speech expressing the committee's sincere intentions to try and do their best for the people of Micronesia. The Delegation members received the blessings of Father Hacker of the Assumption School and Reverend Namu Herios of the Assemblies of God Church, before boarding for Honolulu.

Members of the Micronesian Status Delegation who will join the other members of the committee who left earlier are: Representatives John Mangefel (Yap) Olter Paul (Ponape); Ekpap Silk (Marshalls); and Senator Roman Tmetuchl (Palau); Petrus Tun (Yap); Tosiwo Nakayama (Truk) and Isaac Lanwi (Marshalls)

Other members of the committee who left for Hawaii earlier this month are: Senator Lazarus Sali chairman (Palau); Edward Pangelinan (Marianas); Andon Amaraich (Truk); Bailey Olter (Ponape) and Representative Herman Guerrero (Marianas).

HONOLULU ADVERTISER

October 2, 1971

delegation arrives for talks

The U.S. delegation to the third in a series of talks on the political future of the Trust Territory of the Pacific arrived in Honolulu yesterday from Washington, D.C.

The eight-man party is led by Ambassador F. Haydn Williams, personal representative of President Nixon for the negotiations. Williams arranged to go direct-

ly from his airport arrival to the residence of an unidentified friend in Kailua.

MICRONESIAN delegates have said through spokesman Lazarus Sali that they will move toward independence from the U.S. if the upcoming talks break down.

Williams served as U.S. deputy assistant secretary of defense from 1958 to 1962

and became president of the Asia Foundation in 1964. He is also a member of the U.S. National Commission for UNESCO.

The first meeting between representatives of both sides was expected to come either last night or early today. The talks start officially on Monday at Hana, Maui.

OTHERS in the U.S. party

are Ambassador Arthur William Hummel Jr., who until a few months ago was the U.S. Ambassador to Burma; Lindsey Grant, Ronald Stowe and John Dorrance of the State Department; Navy Capt. William Crowe, and Army Col. A. M. Smith, of the Defense Department, and Thomas Whittington, of the Interior Department.

They will stay at the Hilton Hawaiian Village while on Oahu.

Micronesia's eyes on Hana conference

By **ROBERT JOHNSON**

Advertiser Maui Bureau

HANA, Maui—It is most appropriate that diplomatic talks involving the possible independence of Micronesia from the United States should be held here.

With the exception of Niuhau and parts of Parker Ranch, Hana may be the last community in Hawaii to find its independence from the old ways turn into a more sophisticated relationship with what has become the 50th State of the United States.

The delegations of Micronesia and the United States will begin their talks today in a house that once was the home of the owner of Hana, the late Paul Fagan, who bought the whole place shortly after it failed as a sugar plantation with the end of World War II.

The Micronesians are here to seek more voice in their own affairs after more than 50 years of life under foreign rule ranging from Germany before World War I and Japan before World War II to the United States.

THIS FOREIGN rule has been exercised since 1919 under the guise of international trusteeships, first under the League of Nations and for

the past 25 years under the United Nations.

It is significant that the United Nations is not formally represented at the talks beginning here today. The discussions are said to be an internal matter between the Micronesians and the U.S. Departments of State and Interior.

As Lazarus Salii, co-chairman of the Congress of Micronesia's Joint Committee on Future Status and acknowledged Micronesian spokesman, has said, the talks now beginning are "crucial."

Either they will come up with some answers, giving Micronesians more say over the disposition of their lands, "or we go on to independence. There is no alternative route."

THE TALKS are being held at what is called "The Director's Cottage" of Hana Ranch, a complex of comfortable accommodations, formerly Fagan's home.

It wasn't planned, but the talks open as Hana begins its annual Hoolaulea and its own unique observance of Aloha Week.

Saturday night the people of Hana celebrated the beginning of their festival with a parade that required the complete attention of the

four-man Hana police force and involved a showing later of the talents of the people of Hana from Kanae to Kaupo.

This isolated community, preoccupied with its own entertainment at this time, is almost untouched by the gathering here of top diplomatic officials hoping to solve a problem of sovereignty over thousands of square miles of Pacific islands.

Hana is used to celebrities. The Hotel Hana Maui is world famous as a refuge for the famous from the crowds. To the Hana people it is all one if the current celebrity at the hotel is the king of Belgium, a princess of The Netherlands, a baron of American or German industry or the President of the United States.

HANA ALREADY is a second home to such world luminaries as Charles Lindbergh and Laurance Rockefeller. Hasegawa General Store has been immortalized in song.

Of course, just as change is coming to Micronesia, perhaps to be formalized in these talks, it also is coming to Hana, which for so long has been the private barony of one or another American business enterprise.

Focus on Future of Trust Islands

By Gardiner B. Jones
Editor, Pacific News Service

HANA, Maui — A United States ambassador and a Micronesian legislator, flanked by their staffs, sat down at a conference table here today in hopes of deciding the political future of 100,000 inhabitants of far-flung Pacific Islands.

Also at stake was whether a mighty nation of 205 million could protect its considerable strategic interests in the Pacific and at the same time find a way to keep its long-pledged word.

THAT THE TALKS, expected to last 10 days, were being held in this secluded resort village was in itself an indication of the seriousness with which both sides approach the matter. Hana was chosen precisely in hope of avoiding distractions—such as close attention of the press.

For the U.S. there was Ambassador Franklin Hadyen Williams, the personal representative of President Nixon. For Micronesia, there was Sen. Lazarus Saliu of Palau, co-chairman of the Joint Committee on Future Status of the Congress of Micronesia.

Ambassador Williams was backed up by representatives of the departments of

State, Interior and Defense, and Saliu by colleagues from the Micronesia Congress and by three academic advisers, two American and one Australian.

IN BRIEF, their task is to discover how to end the United Nations trusteeship under which the U.S. has ruled the three-million-square-mile western Pacific for the past quarter of a century—under terms agreeable to both.

The U.S. received trusteeship control of Micronesia from the United Nations in 1947 in recognition of its predominant strategic-military interest. Along with that control, however, went obligations to help the islands develop economically and politically and to permit eventual self-determination.

So far, these obligations are largely unmet.

IN RECENT YEARS, with other World War II trusteeships phased out, the pressure has intensified for final determination of the political status of Micronesia.

Sixteen months ago, the U.S. offered commonwealth status, which would give Micronesians increased self-government but allow continued American control overall. The Micronesians rejected the offer, counter-

proposing "free association."

The Micronesian proposal would permit the islands to withdraw at any time. The reason they made such a proposal was the growth of doubt about the good faith of the U.S., flowing from American failure to keep its promises.

THE U.S. has never responded to the free association proposal, presumably because Washington policymakers fear loss of assured military control of the western Pacific.

The Micronesians entered the current negotiations on the note that any progress would depend on whether the U.S. comes up with fresh proposals.

Said Senator Saliu:

"If there is not a new proposal we will go home and report to the Congress of Micronesia. If the response of the U.S. is not substantially different we might ask to discuss steps for independence."

The senator said he is sympathetic to American military concerns in the Pacific but wants specifics which have never been stated.

"IF THE U.S. tells us what its actual interest is,"

he said, "we could talk along these lines instead of the U.S. insisting on a blank check. If they want to keep other military powers out, we are willing to talk terms."

"But if they are not clear in their own minds, it will be difficult. Micronesians don't know what the Americans want. There is a fear that every island is a potential base and a target in case of war."

The Senator said he has had no indication whether the U.S. will in fact present a new proposal. He said, however, he is convinced that the U.S. has given serious study to the idea of free association.

IN THESE TALKS there is fragmentation on both sides of the table. For the U.S., the State, Interior and Defense departments—all of which have figured in the administration of Micronesia—have never in a quarter of a century been able to agree on a common policy.

On the Micronesian side, the negotiation team includes advocates of free association, full independence and of closer ties with the U.S. For the current negotiations, the Micronesians are united behind the free association proposal.

Asia-Pacific 'action': Micronesia . .

It's become almost a cliché to say that for the U.S. the Pacific is where the action will be in the 1970s. Among others, President Nixon advances the idea.

The emphasis can be overdone. The legitimate concerns of Europe and the old focus of much of the Eastern Establishment are still there. So are the Russians on the edge of Europe and in the Middle East. And there are plenty of domestic problems that will occupy most Americans this decade.

Still the emerging realities of China and Japan cannot be ignored any more than the trauma and aftermath of Vietnam. In Asia, after all, we are talking about half the world's people.

SO IT IS GOOD that the 12th annual United Press International conference for editors and publishers opens in Hawaii today with discussions on China and Japan.

But today we would also like to focus some attention on a part of the Pacific closer to home—the mid-Pacific U.S. Trust Territory in Micronesia. Among other things, it is geographically the world's largest colo-

ny, covering an ocean area larger than the Mainland U.S.

In the bucolic setting of Hana, Maui, this morning U.S. and Micronesian negotiators begin the third round in slow-moving talks on the future political status of the Trust Territory.

The two sides have been at an impasse for more than a year, and the issues can be complex, as is the pattern of Pacific political development discussed in an article on the opposite page.

However, these are some important points in the Micronesia situation:

- The United States does not own the islands or people of the Trust Territory. As the name implies, we rule under a United Nations mandate that calls for the Micronesians to make the basic choice on their political future.

Some Americans may talk about some "right of conquest" since we took over in World War II. But the enemy there then was the Japanese, not the Micronesians who have been very much innocent bystanders for centuries as a series of colonial pow-

ers have taken their islands. That process must stop.

- The basic American interest in the Trust Territory islands has been their strategic location. We have used them for nuclear bomb tests, a missile shooting gallery, for training Chinese Nationalist guerrilla and as a buffer zone between us and Asia.

Today the basic concern seems over a mixture of having potential post-Vietnam fallback bases and the concept of strategic denial against others using the area for military reasons.

To our ends, the U.S. has offered "commonwealth" status which would keep the Trust Territory under the American flag (and ultimate Washington control) in a territorial arrangement possibly most akin to Puerto Rico.

- The major Micronesian interest expressed is to be more Micronesian than American, to gain basic control over their own land and destiny, yet to make accommodations for American strategic interests in return for the financial help they will need.

To their ends they have proposed

an imaginative new status called "free association" under which Micronesians would run their islands and own their land under complete internal self-government. The U.S. would handle foreign affairs and defense, which would mean options to lease land for bases.

• There are two minority positions among the Micronesians. One is a growing group for outright independence, an alternate official position to free association. The other is the Marianas Islands' (north of Guam) stance toward commonwealth or closer ties with the U.S.

The U.S. is aware of Micronesian differences and could try to exploit them in talks, but it is a tactic with its dangers of balkanizing the area.

• The American record has been mixed in Micronesia. In the 1950s it was marked by neglect. In the 1960s there was a welcome stress on both economic and political development, although with the background intention of tying the area to the U.S. in territorial status.

• Now there is what might be called a crisis of American inten-

tions. The Micronesians have been honest about what they want, and it adds up to a responsible mixture of freedom, concern for U.S. needs and hope for future help. The U.S. has been far less clear in terms of the high ideals we taught the Micronesians.

IN THE TOTAL Asia-Pacific context it's possible to exaggerate the Micronesia situation. There are, after all, only 100,000 people living on a land area the size of Oahu. Of matters of such size in Micronesia, Walter Hickel's new book quotes Henry Kissinger as once saying: "Who gives a damn?"

Yet because it hasn't cared enough about the people involved the U.S. finds itself at the embarrassing impasse it faces today as talks open on Maui.

Hopefully, some new proposals and new thinking will resolve the Micronesia situation. If we can't at least do that, with friendly people, we are in poor shape to face the tougher issues with far less kindly persons in the new era of Asia-Pacific action that looms ahead.

... and an overview of Oceania politics

The following outline of U.S. policy considerations in the Pacific Islands was written by a former Asia correspondent who traveled and studied in the islands for a year on a fellowship from the Alicia Patterson Fund.

By JOHN GRIFFIN

Editorial Page Editor, *The Advertiser*

The United States is a Pacific power that does not always know much about the Pacific-Asia area it influences so greatly.

Indochina has taught this nation some painful lessons. China is more of a mystery, and the new Japan calls for a new kind of understanding.

But even closer to home there is the vast tropical island area between Asia,

Pacific view

Australia-New Zealand and North and South America. It is called Oceania.

Ten thousand islands lie south and west of Hawaii in this the world's largest of oceans spread across a third of the globe. There are not many people on these islands. Only some 4 million, excluding Hawaii. Nor is there much land, about 490,000 square miles, much smaller than Alaska. And more than 80 per cent of the people and land is in New Guinea, an island world of its own.

Yet Pacific Oceania is important in several ways. One is a sheer size that gives it strategic value: "You just can't ignore that much of the world," a U.S. military planner once put it.

Another is that this is the world's last emerging colonial area, coming of age in a new era of post-Vietnam political adjustment, advanced technology, mass tourism, the old rising expectations modified by varying environmental concerns.

It is an area that deserves better than old Cold War thinking or new kinds of Western or Eastern exploitation.

dividing it

Oceania is well over a dozen times the size of the U.S. Mainland, and that is a problem. You have to divide it up to grasp it, and then you lose some of its total meaning.

In this context, Hawaii is a special place, both a legitimate crossroads and the single most isolated island group in the world.

For most Americans there are two parts of the Pacific Islands to think about — north and south.

The North Pacific above the equator is the U.S. sphere of influence. Besides Hawaii, there is the Trust Territory which we rule under U.N. mandate and the U.S. territory of Guam. Both are in the racial area called Micronesia which means "small islands." (So is the Gilbert Islands, the significant above-the-equator exception since it is part of a British colony.)

The American view of the North Pacific is dominated by strategic interests — and that is reflected in the current negotiations on the future political status of the Trust Territory, a subject discussed in an editorial on the opposite page.

The South Pacific is different. Here the American view is mixed — dreams of the "South Seas" with swaying palms and hula girls somehow coexisting with memories of a Pacific war with its images of bloodshed and black natives.

This is not the American area. Indeed, tiny American Samoa, with 30,000 people in an area no bigger than the District of Columbia, is our only possession below the equator.

Geographically and racially the South Pacific area splits: In the East there is Polynesia ("many islands") which also extends up to Hawaii and down to New Zealand. To the west is Melanesia, which means "dark islands" and reflects both the skin color of the people and the brooding size and mineral riches of some of the islands. This, of course, is where much of the early Pacific war was fought.

the politics

But the more meaningful division these

days is in terms of politics.

As the U.S. holds American Samoa, there are other colonies left from the day when the various powers came looking for their separate mixtures of coaling station trading markets, glories of empire and souls to save.

The French hold tightly to tarnished but still-lovely Tahiti and, far to the west, New Caledonia with its enormous nickel deposits.

The French have no intention to leave now, and looking at that and U.S. reluctance to give up Micronesia there have been top South Pacific leaders who said: "The Americans and the French are the worst imperialists in the islands."

By chance of history and continuing fate, the French and the British jointly rule the New Hebrides in the world's only condominium government. As such, it has aspects of a comic opera tinged with serious considerations about the native New Hebrideans.

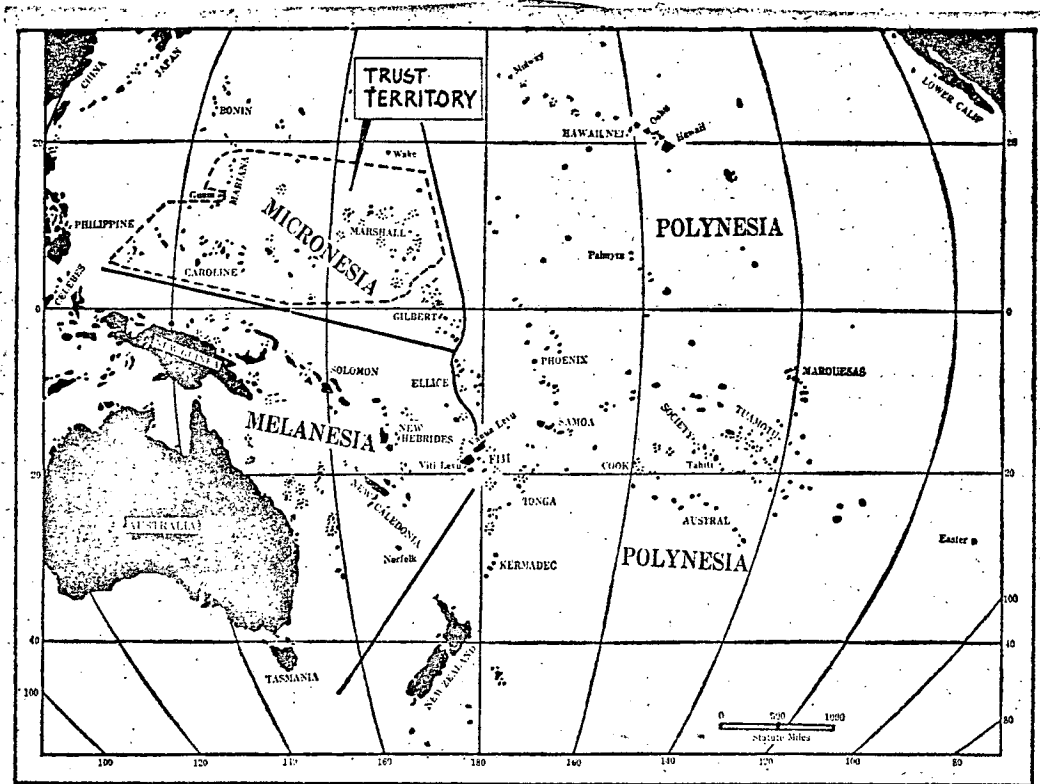
But the British goal is to get out when possible. Britain has with certain style granted Fiji independence, given up its protectorate over Tonga, and looks to the day when it works its way out of the Solomons and its Gilbert and Ellice Islands colony.

Australia has a U.N. Trust Territory and the Pacific's biggest colonial responsibility in the eastern half of New Guinea and big nearby islands which it hopes to give up over the next few years.

So with exceptions the real story of the South Pacific islands is their movement towards independence or something close to it — and then perhaps towards new forms of area unity.

Independent states include Fiji, a growing crossroads now akin to Hawaii 20 years ago; Western Samoa, a quiet piece of old Polynesia; Tonga, the last Pacific monarchy; and Nauru, a republic with eight square miles and phosphate deposits that make its people the richest per capita in the world. To this must be added the Cook Islands, which were granted a unique form of self-government-with-aid by an imaginative New Zealand.

growing regionalism



Regional unity in the islands has been slow in developing for several reasons, including the vast distances and fragmentation caused by colonialism.

Still cooperation has been growing:

Over the years the emerging islanders have won much control over the South Pacific Commission, the regional body started by the colonial powers in 1947 to deal in health, education and economic development matters.

In recent years, South Pacific island leaders have formed their own organization to deal in trade matters. This year a mini-summit gathering of such leaders was held in New Zealand to discuss some more political matters.

Moreover, Fiji has become the first small Pacific Island nation to join the U.N., giving the area a voice in the world-forum.

Of more interest to the U.S. is the fact there is increasing interest in knowing more about each other between islanders in the North and South Pacific.

"There is much we can learn from the others," said a Micronesian leader here recently. Notably, as a Micronesian committee bargains here with the U.S. on future status the two top leaders of the Congress of Micronesia are in the area's first all-Micronesian delegation to the South Pacific Commission meeting in New Caledonia.

Again, like much of the area, things are small and developments come slowly. But an emerging fact about the Pacific Oceania is that it is becoming bigger than the sum

of its many small parts.

Hawaii's role

Hawaii's place in this picture remains uncertain. As an emerging, aspiring multiracial community, these islands have looked ahead toward statehood in the American pattern, and when elsewhere back toward the Asian homeland of many people.

That is natural enough. But over the years various ties have grown with other island areas, in business, education, transportation and tourism. This is more so with the Americanized North Pacific than the islands to the South. With more effort, such ties could be both more numerous and more meaningful.

In this period of Vietnam fallback, Micronesia uncertainty, and emerging islands to the South, U.S. Pacific policy toward the Pacific islands seems very much up for grabs.

It remains dominated by big-power strategic thinking, although there are those in government capable of seeing beyond to the mixture of moral responsibilities, appreciation of the people involved and emerging new Pacific politics that could make for a more meaningful American policy in the long run.

As a state of the union, Hawaii is naturally a prisoner of any American Pacific policy devised in Washington. But as a Pacific island community we should both hope for and try to influence a more imaginative islands policy than we have had so far.

U.S. Prevails; Lid Put on Micronesia Talks



Rep. E. Silk, right, is co-chairman of the Micronesian delegation at the Hana conference. At left is Sen. E. Pangelonan. Both are members of the Micronesian Congress.

By Gardiner B. Jones
Editor, Pacific News Service

HANA, Maui — The negotiations on the future status of Micronesia have gone into deep secrecy, which is the way the Americans wanted it in the first place.

The Micronesians at first reserved their position on an American proposal that there be no disclosure of what goes on at the bargaining table. They wanted the option of telling the press what was happening.

After one day, however, Sen. Lazarus Salii, the chief spokesman for the Micronesians, said he was going along with U.S. Ambassador Franklin-Hadyn Williams.

The hope was that the negotiations will produce agreement on a new political status for the Pacific islands. Now they are controlled by the United States under a United Nations trusteeship.

THE MICRONESIANS want greater political freedom but they recognize

America's strong military concerns in the area.

The problem is to balance these two interests.

A report yesterday that the United States had made a fresh proposal was not correct. It was based on a misleading statement by an American participant.

All that happened yesterday was that the two sides exchanged opening statements of principle and engaged in general discussions but there was nothing on the table in the way of a new proposal.

U.S. plan for Trust yet to come

By **ROBERT JOHNSON**
Advertiser Maui Bureau

HANA—Micronesian delegates to the diplomatic talks here on the future political status of the U.S. Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands seem restive under the rule of strict secrecy imposed by the United States.

The talks began at 10 a.m. yesterday; broke for lunch and a long, unofficial caucus at the Hotel Hana Maui; then resumed for about an hour and a half in the afternoon.

A REPORT in circulation yesterday morning that new U.S. proposals would be made on the first day of the talks was said yesterday afternoon to have been in error.

In any event, when the conference broke up about 4:30 p.m., a Micronesian delegate indicated that not much new, if anything, had been proposed by Ambassador Franklin Haydn Wil-

liams, President Nixon's personal representative to the talks.

Ambassador Williams has made no public statement. The only person to comment so far has been Sen. Lazarus Salli, chief of the Micronesian delegation, and he hasn't said much since coming to Hana.

ON THE RECORD, the United States has offered a form of commonwealth status to the Trust islands similar to that of Puerto Rico.

The Micronesians have countered with a new idea they call "free association."

The Micronesians want full internal authority over their islands. The United States wants to be sure to keep strategic control—that is, the right to maintain military bases and oversee the external affairs of the islands.

Whatever is worked out during the next several days, the conference is expected to

last, even if the talks are spectacularly successful, it will be some time before political reality results from them.

Any agreement must be ratified by the U.S. Congress, the Congress of Micronesia, and a plebiscite of the islands' population.

MEANWHILE life goes on in this isolated place on Maui—apparently chosen for the talks to discourage close attention to the proceedings by the press. At Hotel Hana Maui yesterday, the schedule of events for visitors included lei-stringing, hat-weaving, coconut-husking, snorkeling, a garden walk and movies in the library.

But today looks like a bigger day. The hotel bulletin board announces "a lecture on the pig being put into the imu" at 2:30 p.m. and "a lecture on the pig being taken out of the imu" at 6:30 p.m., followed by a luau.

Hana Talks: Cavalry vs. Indians?

Brrrr! It's Cold in Hana These Days

HANA, Maui—The way they are handling the Micronesia status negotiations here gives the impression that nuclear disarmament, China's entry into the UN and the reunification of Germany were all being worked on simultaneously.

It is not that finding a solution to Micronesia's future political status isn't important. But the talks are surrounded by seemingly greater secrecy than would attend far more momentous matters.

There are more "no comments" thrown at newsmen by the Americans than one would encounter in a dozen Soviet embassies.

The U.S. is represented by two—not one, but two—ambassadors. One is a career State Department man, Arthur Hummel, a former ambassador to Burma. The other is Franklin Hadyn Williams, a non-career man brought in by President Nixon last spring to handle the negotiations.

THE SPECULATION is that the President, aware of the long-standing inability of State, Defense and Interior to agree on Micronesia, wanted a neutral outsider.

At any rate, Williams is in charge and Hummel is sort of his executive officer.

The word is that President Nixon is being kept closely informed.

In private situations with close friends or treasured pets, the two ambassadors may very well be warm, tender-hearted even mildly emotional men. But in representing the United States vis-a-vis the Micronesians, Hummel and Williams convey the impression of something shipped to sub-tropical Hana from the Arctic Ocean in January. Their demeanor is as hard and unyielding as a cavalry bugle call.

Hummel and Williams granted one audience with newsmen for the single purpose, apparently, of saying that they weren't going to answer anyone's questions.

THEY DID bring along a U.S. Information Agency man, Roy Johnson, who on a day-to-day basis relieves the ambassadors of the responsibility of saying there is no information the Americans choose to give out.

Johnson is a soft-spoken, friendly man from Dallas who will sit around and swap anecdotes. But he is not communicative about the negotiations. Occasionally, Johnson will tell a newsmen something on an "off the record" basis—such as that Micronesia is composed of three major island groups in the Western Pacific. But questions about matters more relevant to the negotiations produce nothing except an acute case of lockjaw in Johnson.

The Micronesians contrast strongly with the American delegation. They seem a great deal more human—and there is, in fact, an almost sad impression of men anxious to please the U.S. in the negotiations.

THE IMPRESSION is of a generosity that the hard-nosed Americans across the table wouldn't hesitate to cash in on.

This is not to say that the Micronesians are naive. Senator Pangelinan of Saipan, for example, is a cartoonist on the side, and he has done a sketch depicting the Micronesians as Sioux-Indians facing an American negotiating team got up as a bunch of frontier cavalry officers.

The caption has the Indians saying, "We are afraid your proposal might be injurious to our health."

Between caucuses and negotiating sessions, the two delegations sit around stuffing themselves on the lavish food of the Hotel Hana Maui. This led one of the Micronesians to say:

"I hope the United States is not trying to fatten us for the slaughter."

the status of Trust talks

By **ROBERT JOHNSON**
Advertiser Maui Bureau

HANA, Maui—A parallel has been drawn between the manner in which the United States imposed its will on Japan after World War II and the diplomatic talks here on the future political status of the Trust Territory of the Pacific.

Micronesian delegates apparently have been advised within their own group to see the imposition on Japan by Gen. Douglas MacArthur of a unilaterally-drawn constitution—and in particular the famous Article 9—as an example of the high-handed methods used by the United States in dealings with Pacific nations.

Article 9 of the Japanese constitution requires that country to renounce war as a sovereign national right and forbade Japan from again maintaining any military establishment.

THE MICRONESIANS have been advised to read the report as an example of what can happen to them in dealing with the United States. The theory is that, despite the idealism of some of America's views, it is dominated by an imperialist, even a racist attitude in dealing with Pacific peoples.

Offsetting this is the quietly confident patience of Ambassador Franklin Hayden Williams, President Nixon's personal representative and chief of the U.S. delegation. Williams has strived to show the Micronesians that the United States wants to help them achieve a greater material as well as political independence, and that he is doing all he can to help.

As head of the Asia Foundation, Williams has offered the probability of foundation funds to help finance Trust Territory schools. His manner is earnestly sincere and he has displayed an intimate knowledge of conditions in the

Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

BUT THE Micronesians seem to be wary of American intentions. Actual conference sessions between both delegations have been relatively brief since the talks opened Monday, while separate caucuses of the Micronesian delegation have tended to take up most of the time.

On Tuesday the Micronesians asked for and obtained more private quarters for their purposes after complaining the Hotel Hana Maui library, where they have been caucusing, was too public.

At stake in the talks is the increasing importance of the Trust Territory to the continued U.S. military presence in the Pacific as the U.S. withdraws from Vietnam and from Okinawa and other bases it has occupied since World War II.

The negotiations, meanwhile, continue to be held under the strictest secrecy, apparently imposed by the United States.

THIS REMOTE Maui village is believed to have been selected by the United States for the talks in order as much as possible to avoid public discussion of them until they are completed.

Ironically, it appears many of the attitudes the U.S. has feared would be crystalized in the Micronesian delegation by such public discussion are showing up anyway.

The remoteness of the place, and the luxuriousness of the accommodations for the talks, have seemed to intensify rather than lessen Micronesian fears that they have been brought here and cut off from the outside world and world opinion so something can be put over on them.

A key to the success of the negotiations for the United States would seem increasingly to be Ambassador Williams' ability to convince the Micronesians of his obvious personal goodwill towards them and their people.

What's in Store for Micronesia? It's a U.S. Secret

By Gardiner B. Jones
Editor, Pacific News Service

HANA, Maui — There was a security slip on an American staff officer's lip at the U.S.-Micronesia status negotiations here the other day — and it gave away the main game.

The American, who knows what he is talking about, said that the United States has absolutely no intention of telling the Micronesians what it really wants from them in the way of military lands in the Pacific Islands.

This statement is made public at the probable risk of having the American searched out by his State Department superiors and banished to the consulate at Tierra del Fuego. Or maybe even transferred to the Interior Department.

THAT IS because Ambassadors Franklin Hadyn Williams and Arthur Hummel, who are running things here, have been very forceful on the point that no one must know what the U.S. is really up to — and land is the heart of it.

They are conducting these negotiations as if the U.S. were dealing with its most virulent enemy instead of with an eager friend, which

is what the Micronesians are.

It works like this:

Micronesia, being composed of islands, is short on land and the people of Micronesia are deeply concerned about how much land the U.S. wants for bases, now and in the future.

So now the two sides are trying to negotiate an end to the United Nations trusteeship under which the U.S. has ruled Micronesia for 25 years.

The Micronesians want greater political independence internally — and the U.S. wants to maintain a military foothold in what it considers a vital strategic area.

AMONG OTHER things, this requires resolution of the land problem.

The Micronesians have said over and over they understand America's defense needs in the Pacific and will be happy to negotiate them.

But they want to regain control of their own land — and they say it would help for starters if the U.S. would say right out what it wants in the way of bases.

So what it boils down to, as revealed by the inadvertently informative American, is that the U.S. is shooting for a settlement in which it

will hang on to a bookful of blank checks on Micronesian lands.

Parenthetically, the Defense Department so far as is known has never told other departments of the American government exactly what it really wants in the Pacific.

So the observer unavoidably wonders what kind of negotiating it really is when the U.S. refuses to be candid with people sympathetic to it about the central problem.

THAT IN turn says something about the American attitude. The State Department people are playing a kind of W. C. Fields shell game with the Micronesians. The assumption apparently is that the Micronesians will not be able to figure out which shell the pea is under.

These negotiations may very well lead to greater political independence for the Micronesians. The American attitude on that appears genuine.

But if that is how it works out, it will be a degree of independence GRANTED by the Americans — as distinguished from having been negotiated by them with persons considered equals.

Micronesian Leaders Meet with Students

Star-Bulletin Bureau

KAHULUI, Maui — Micronesian leaders meeting with U.S. officials in Hana flew to Kahului yesterday to brief Micronesian students on the progress on their talks.

The secret Hana talks involve the future political statute of Micronesia, now administered by the United States, and the status of Micronesia, now a trust territory.

The meeting with about 45 Micronesians attending schools on Maui was arranged by Mayor Elmer F. Cravalho. It was held at the Maui Community College.

NEWSMEN were permitted to attend the meeting but were asked not to report any dialogue on political issues.

All 12 of the Micronesian senators and congressmen attending the Hana talks returned to the secluded East

Maui village immediately after the meeting, their lips still officially sealed on the status of the talks.

But it was obvious that their rap session with the students had resulted in some positive effects — and nationalistic stirrings.

"We learned a lot and are now more aware of what Micronesia can mean to us," a student said following the meeting.

Sen. Lazarus Sali of Palau, chief spokesman for the Micronesian delegation, told the students that the Trust Territory's problems "are being dealt with great seriousness."

HE SAID he was pleased to see "so many of you going to school here" and pointed out that 6 of the 12 Micronesian delegates are University of Hawaii graduates.

Sali also said he and several other Micronesian leaders had received political training from Mayor Cravalho who employed them when he was speaker of Hawaii's House of Representatives.

Rep. E. Silk urged the students to consider careers as lawyers, doctors and teachers.

Micronesia needs people of these professions badly, he said, and, noted that the islands have only three lawyers of Micronesian descent, including himself, to serve a population of 100,000.

Also attending the meeting were Amata Kabua, president of Micronesia's Senate, and Bethel Henry, speaker of Micronesia's House of Representatives.

Both men are former Maui students. Kabua's alma mater is Maunaolu College and Henry is a former Lahaina student.

HONOLULU ADVERTISER

October 9, 1971

Micronesian get-together held on Maui

WAILUKU—The Micronesian delegates to the Trust Territory of the Pacific status talks left Hana for a few hours last night to get together with more than 30 Micronesian students at Maui Community College.

The 12-man Micronesian delegation was flown from Hana to Kahului about 6:30 p.m. in a plane chartered by Maui County. They were invited here by Maui's Mayor Elmer F. Cravalho, who ad-

ressed them briefly on their arrival.

Cravalho is believed to have arranged the get-together for the Micronesians during a brief visit to Hana Wednesday with Sen. Lazarus Sali of Palau, chief of the Micronesian delegation.

Cravalho first met Sali when the Micronesian was a legislative intern at the State House of Representatives while Cravalho was Speaker of the House.

Micronesia 'encouraged'

by Hana talks

HANA, Maui—A Micronesian spokesman at U.S.-Micronesia talks here on the future status of the Trust Territory broke a week of silence yesterday with the optimistic news that "The U.S. has come a long way in understanding the concerns of our people."

Sen. Lazarus Salii of Palau, cochairman of the Micronesian delegation to the talks, issued the first progress report since the closed talks began Oct. 4.

"WE ARE QUITE encouraged at the way this third round of negotiations has progressed to date," he said.

"Since 1969, when negotiations started, the United States has come a long way in understanding the concerns of our people toward land, customs, traditions and greater respect for the political rights of Micronesia."

Before Salii and the other members of the Congress of Micronesia's Joint Committee on Future Status flew to Maui last week, they vowed the talks would have to produce progress or they would begin steps toward independence.

SALII SAID YESTERDAY his committee was "optimistic some broad agreement on the future status of Micronesia will be reached on

the basis of the four principles authorized by the Congress of Micronesia."

Those four principles involve Micronesia's right to self-determination, the right to control its own land, the right to formulate its own system of government and the right to break away from any agreement with the U.S.

A MAJOR STUMBLING block in previous talks has been U.S. insistence on the right to take and use lands for military or other purposes.

Salii said the statement released yesterday represented only the Micronesian delegation, and was in no way a joint release.

The American delegation to the talks, headed by Ambassador Franklin Haydn Williams, has thus far refused to make any comment at all. It was the Americans, in fact, who chose Hana as the talk site because of its remoteness and lack of press coverage.

SALII SAID the talks will continue today. He would not speculate how long they might continue.

The statements made by Salii yesterday were also to be released in Saipan today, addressed to "all members of the Congress of Micronesia and all members of district legislatures."



SALII

accord in Hana?

President Nixon has said his administration should be judged more by what it does than what it says—and hopefully that will be the case with Micronesia.

The U.S. delegation to the current round of talks on Micronesia's future political status at Hana, Maui, has said very little by way of public comment.

But there are some encouraging signs of real progress in these talks aimed at breaking the impasse between the U.S., which first offered a form of territorial relationship, and the Congress of Micronesia, which called for semi-independence under a cooperative "free association" status with the U.S.

MOST OBVIOUS was the weekend statement by Senator Lazarus Salii, co-chairman of the Micronesian delegation.

He said "the U.S. has come a long way" and he was "optimistic some broad agreement . . . will be reached" on Micronesia's four key principles—the rights of self determination, control over their land, to write their own constitution, and the option of either side to later end the agreement.

An American weekend press release was more cautious. It said that after a week of talks the chairmen of the two sides were "in agreement that progress has been made on many issues, but there are still areas requiring further discussion and, eventually, consultation in Micronesia and in Washington before a final settlement can be reached on the future political status of the Trust Territory."

However, other reports from the conference suggested the U.S. side also feels there have been some major breakthroughs and talks have

come a long ways toward resolving the impasse.

At the same time, there were calls for caution and reminders that stumbling blocks existed both in the remaining agenda at Hana and in reaching any final agreement later.

WHAT IT ADDED up to as the second week of talks began yesterday was hope on both sides that the next couple of days could produce general initial agreement on a plan that would accommodate both Micronesian demands for control of their own islands and U.S. Pacific security considerations.

If it happens that would be a giant step out of a situation where the U.S. has looked neither pleasant nor generous in the face of Micronesian demands for what amount to basic rights.

In fact, at best only some tentative agreement was expected by both sides at Hana. At least another meeting in Micronesia later this year would be necessary.

Then comes what could be a rather long process of approval of any proposal by the full Congress of Micronesia, the Micronesian people, and the U.S. Congress—a body that has the capacity to scuttle any plan unless it is properly sold.

MICRONESIA could hardly be classed as a burning U.S. political issue, although it has the capacity to embarrass an Administration if it is poorly handled. Still a satisfactory settlement could be another election-year plus for the Nixon Administration.

But far more important is the fact of doing right in a way that sets the stage for future cooperation and continuing friendship, in effect a progressive U.S. Pacific policy geared more in the future than the past.

progress in Trust Isles talks noted

HANA, Maui—There were strong indications here last night that talks between the U.S. and Micronesia were headed for a successful conclusion.

Micronesian delegates to the talks planned to confer among themselves last night after meeting with the American delegation until 6:30 p.m.

There were indications the present round of talks—which began Oct. 4—might end by the middle of this week. A fourth round may be scheduled for sometime near the end of the year, in the Trust Territory itself.

IF SUCH FURTHER talks are announced, it will mean Micronesians are satisfied with the progress of the current meetings. Sen. Lazarus Salii of Palau, chief spokesman for the Micronesians, had said his group would break off and begin moves toward independence if the Hana meetings were not successful.

On Sunday, Salii said he was "optimistic" about the talks and indicated he felt the U.S. had come a long way toward understanding the Micronesian position.

At issue is the degree of internal autonomy and control over lands Micronesians

will eventually have.

YESTERDAY, the U.S. delegation issued a press statement which said the chairmen of both groups were in agreement that progress had been made on many issues.

But the statement warned there are still areas requiring further discussion and consultation both in Micronesia and in Washington, D.C.

The statement noted any agreement reached in Hana must be ratified by government officials in the Trust Territory and in Washington.

Gains Noted in Talks on Micronesia

The just-concluded third round of United States-Micronesia talks on the future status of the Trust Territory produced major progress and a major disagreement.

Sen. Lazarus Salii, chief spokesman for the Micronesians, said today he is heartened by the U.S. position on many key points, including willingness to return control of their lands to the islanders.

But, he said, the two sides remain far apart on the exact nature of the future relationship between America and Micronesia.

The talks, held at Hana, Maui, were the third set of discussions aimed at terminating the United Nations trusteeship under which the United States has controlled Micronesia since World War II.

PREVIOUSLY, the United

States offered Micronesia a form of commonwealth status, a proposal designed to insure continued American military control of the Pacific islands.

Last year, the Micronesians counterproposed "free association." Under this arrangement, Micronesia would control its internal affairs and leave external matters in American hands.

A key part of the free association proposal was that the Micronesians would have the right to terminate the arrangement unilaterally.

In the talks at Hana, Salii said, the United States would not agree to unilateral termination of a free association arrangement.

"So I don't feel this is a move toward free association," the senator said. "The point of disagreement is so major that unless our position is met, free association

won't be possible."

HOWEVER, the progress at Hana was obviously heartening to both sides and further discussions will be held in Micronesia sometime before next January.

As revealed by Salii, the United States conceded on the following points of major concern to the Micronesians:

—That the lands of Micronesia will be returned to Micronesian control and that the U.S. will relinquish the right of eminent domain.

—That the Micronesians will in the final analysis determine their future political status "through a sovereign act of self-determination," meaning a plebiscite.

—That the Micronesians shall write their own constitution and laws without being subject to U.S. control in any way.

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accord on 3 of 4 Micronesia goals

Talks between the United States and Micronesia on the future political status of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands ended yesterday with general agreement on three of four crucial points.

The major remaining point of disagreement—according to Sen. Lazarus Saliil of Palau, chief spokesman for the Micronesians—is whether Micronesia will have the right to break any agreement with the U.S. unilaterally.

"Micronesia maintained that any agreement shall be subject to unilateral termination. The United States asked for revocation by mutual agreement," Saliil said in Honolulu after attending the talks in Hana, Maui.

Saliil said further talks could be held in Micronesia before the Congress of Micronesia meets in January.

THE HANA TALKS went much further than two previous meetings in reaching agreement on a way to end the United Nations trusteeship which the United States has held over Micronesia since the end of World War II.

Saliil and others in his 12-member Joint Committee on Future Status are confident they made their case on three points.

"The United States recognized Micronesian rights to Micronesian land," Saliil said.

He said last Wednesday that the United States made clear its military needs for land and that—even with Micronesians making the decisions on land use—the needs seemed "reasonable."

It was understood the United States asked rights to military bases in three Trust Territory districts—probably the Marshalls, the Marianas and Palau.

THE UNITED STATES also agreed on the principle of the Micronesians' right to control their own laws, Saliil said. This would mean Micronesians would not be bound to continue the three-branch form of government imposed by the American administration.

A fourth point, on self-determination, has been recognized by both sides at the talks, according to a joint

statement issued yesterday.

"Both delegations agreed that any future political status for Micronesia should be approved by the people of Micronesia in a sovereign act of self-determination," the statement said.

The statement also warned that there are "remaining problems" to be resolved before reaching an agreement, in order to terminate the trusteeship agreement between the United States and the United Nations.

BOTH PARTIES agreed that any understandings reached in Hana were tentative and subject to further review by both Micronesians and the United States.

"Remaining problems" were understood to include whether Micronesians would have the right to free entry into the United States without allowing the same privilege to Americans in Micronesia, and whether Micronesia would be allowed in the United States customs union without giving it a "most favored" nation status for trade.

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