

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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Attached may be of interest to those who follow press coverage of our "Little Islands." I am told that World Horizons-name at top of release-is probably a UPI designation for world news.

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... LOCKED IN DIPLOMATIC ...

BY ...  
... (UPI)--THE MIGHTY UNITED STATES IS ENGAGED IN  
... BATTLE WITH A SPRAWLING GROUP OF TINY, REMOTE  
... ISLANDS WITH ONLY 100,000 RESIDENTS.  
... THE TWO SIDES APPEAR TO BE EVENLY MATCHED IN DETERMINATION,  
... NOT IN PHYSICAL STRENGTH.  
... THE ISLANDS ARE THE U.S. TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC,  
... MICRONESIA. THE DEBATE IS OVER THE FUTURE STATUS OF THE  
... TERRITORY, NOW ADMINISTERED BY THE UNITED STATES UNDER A UNITED  
... NATIONS TRUSTEESHIP.

... THE MORE THAN 2,140 MICRONESIAN ISLANDS STRETCH ACROSS  
... OCEAN AREA AS LARGE AS THE UNITED STATES, BUT THEIR LAND  
... AREA TOTALS ONLY 687 SQUARE MILES, LITTLE MORE THAN ONE-THIRD  
... THE SIZE OF LONG ISLAND, N.Y. CONTAINING SUCH FAMOUS WARTIME  
... BATTLEFIELDS AS SAIPAN, TRUK, PELELIU AND KWAJALEIN, AND  
... THE FORMER NUCLEAR TEST SITES AT BIKINI AND ENIWETOK, THEY  
... HAVE BEEN UNDER U.S. JURISDICTION SINCE THE END OF WORLD  
... WAR II.

... THE DEBATE, OFFICIALLY TWO YEARS OLD, CONCERNS JUST HOW FREE  
... MICRONESIA SHOULD BE. THE UNITED STATES HAS ANNOUNCED ITS  
... WILLINGNESS TO GIVE THE MICRONESIANS INTERNAL SELF-GOVERNMENT  
... UNDER AN ARRANGEMENT SIMILAR TO PUERTO RICO'S COMMONWEALTH  
... STATUS.

... MOST MICRONESIANS ARE NOT SATISFIED WITH THAT. THEY  
... WANT WHAT THEY CALL "FREE ASSOCIATION," WHICH WOULD GRANT THEM  
... RIGHTS SIMILAR TO A COMMONWEALTH WITH ONE IMPORTANT DIFFERENCE--  
... AT ANY TIME THEY COULD UNILATERALLY SEVER THEIR TIES WITH THE  
... UNITED STATES.

... UNDER EITHER PLAN, THE MICRONESIANS WOULD HAVE INTERNAL  
... AUTONOMY, WHILE THE UNITED STATES WOULD HANDLE THEIR EXTERNAL  
... AFFAIRS.

... THE APPARENT REASON FOR THE UNITED STATES' REFUSAL TO  
... ALLOW "FREE ASSOCIATION"--AMERICAN OFFICIALS DON'T LIKE TO  
... DISCUSS IT -- IS THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MICRONESIAN ISLANDS TO  
... U.S. DEFENSE INTERESTS.

... WITH THE REVERSION OF OKINAWA TO JAPAN NEXT YEAR, THAT  
... ISLAND AND ITS NEARBY U.S. BASES COULD BECOME A  
... POINT OF CONTACT OF U.S. ALLIES AND RIVAL GROUPS  
... WHOSE INTERESTS ARE IN CONFLICT. ...

... BUT THEY OBJECT TO ...

... IN VIEW OF THE GREAT FEELINGS OF THE MICRONESIANS THAT THEY SHOULD NOT BE RAISED FOR THE U.S. MILITARY. THE MICRONESIANS WOULD PREFER TO SEND THEIR PROBLEMS TO THE UNITED NATIONS, RATHER THAN SUBMIT TO AN INTERMEDIARY FROM THE UNITED STATES.

LAST MONTH, THE THIRD ROUND OF TALKS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND MICRONESIA WAS COMPLETED AT THE VILLAGE OF HANA ON THE HAWAIIAN ISLAND OF MAUI. THE TALKS, WHICH LASTED A WEEK, WERE SEEN AS AN INDICATION OF PROGRESS AS AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON THREE KEY ISSUES:

--THE UNITED STATES AGREED TO RELINQUISH THE RIGHT OF DOMINANT DOMAIN OVER MICRONESIAN LANDS.

--THE MICRONESIANS WILL HAVE THE ULTIMATE RIGHT TO DETERMINE THEIR FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS THROUGH A PLEBISCITE.

--THE MICRONESIANS WILL HAVE FULL FREEDOM TO WRITE THEIR OWN LAWS AND CONSTITUTION WITHOUT INTERFERENCE AND INFLUENCE.

IT WAS ALSO REPORTED THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE UNITED STATES MADE KNOWN THE EXTENT OF ITS DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS IN THE ISLAND TERRITORY, SPELLING OUT SPECIFICALLY WHAT LAND IT MAY REQUIRE FOR BASES.

ACCORDING TO SEN. EDWARD PANGELINAN OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, QUOTED IN A MICRONESIAN NEWS SERVICE DISPATCH, THE UNITED STATES WANTS TO RETAIN THE INSTALLATIONS AT BIKINI AND ENIETOK IN THE MARSHALL ISLANDS, AND WANTS TO PUT INSTALLATIONS ON THE ISLAND OF TINIAN IN THE MARIANAS CHAIN, AND AT PALAU HARBOR AND ON THE ISLAND OF BABELDAPO IN THE PALAU ISLANDS.

THE SUBSTANTIAL AREAS OF AGREEMENT WERE A FAR CRY FROM SETTLED, BUT WHEN NEITHER SIDE SEEMED WILLING TO COMPROMISE, BUT WHEN NO PROGRESS WAS MADE ON THE KEY ISSUE, WHETHER THE MICRONESIANS SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO TERMINATE ANY POLITICAL AGREEMENT.

SIMPLIFIED, IT IS THE QUESTION, IF SOMEDAY THE MICRONESIANS WANT TO THROW OUT THE AMERICANS, WILL THEY HAVE THE LEGAL RIGHT TO DO SO?

"THE POINT OF DISAGREEMENT IS SO MAJOR THAT UNLESS ONE POINT IS MET, FREE ASSOCIATION WON'T BE POSSIBLE," SAID SEN. LAZARUS SALIA, CHIEF MICRONESIAN SPOKESMAN AT THE HANA TALKS.

BUT THERE APPEARS TO BE ROOM FOR COMPROMISE, SUCH AS SEPARATE MILITARY LAND LEASES FROM AN OVER-ALL POLITICAL SETTLEMENT. THEY WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED BY ANY CHANGES. MORE TALKS ARE SCHEDULED FOR NEXT MONTH.

MEANTIME, A GROUP OF DETERMINED MICRONESIAN YOUTH IS TRYING TO WIN AN INCH OF THE POWER AND INFLUENCE OF THE UNITED STATES.

... WILL POLICIENS FOR 18-19 RELEASE?