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# *Trust ties problem unsolved*

The United States' top representative to the U.S.-Micronesian political status talks has written President Nixon that the greatest problem still to be solved is the manner in which any future association is terminated.

Ambassador Franklin Haydn Williams' letter to the President was released along with a transcript of the most recent status talks at Hana, Maui.

ACCORDING TO the Micronesian News Service, Williams told the President that the matter of association "undoubtedly will be one of the most important questions to be taken up in subsequent negotiations."

At issue is whether the Micronesians should be allowed to end any agreement with the United States unilaterally.

The news service quotes a report on the Hana talks from the Micronesian delegation which says the United States has "rejected" the concept of unilateral termination. Micronesian delegates have held that the point is nonnegotiable and must be agreed to by the United States before any further compromise can be reached.

THE NEXT ROUND of negotiations were to be held in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands just before the regular session of the Congress of Micronesia. However, Williams requested — and the Micronesians agreed — that the talks should be postponed until March, when the congress has ended.

It is possible that during that session, the congress might change its position on unilateral termination at least enough to make a compromise with the United States possible.

In general, Williams' letter to Nixon as quoted by the Micronesian News Service is optimistic. He thanks the President for allowing "new proposals" to be introduced.

"We believe that the basis for a mutually beneficial and enduring relationship between the United States and Micronesia exists," he is quoted as saying.