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# Marianas Still Wants To Go It Alone Politically

By Mike Malone

KOROR, Palau—Congress of Micronesia Representative Herman Guerrero (Marianas) said Wednesday that his delegation is planning to introduce legislation soon which will authorize them to review "other alternatives" and if necessary negotiate a separate future political status with the United States.

The congress' Joint Committee on Future Status currently has a mandate to negotiate a status of "free association" with the United States that would grant full Micronesian control of internal affairs including land, law and future status arrangements. However, according to Guerrero, a member of the Joint Committee, the mandate is not in line with the aspirations of the people of the Marianas District.

He said his constituents have indicated they want permanent ties with the United States, but Guerrero declined to clarify specific details that the separate

status arrangement would include.

The Marianas Congressman did indicate, however, that he and Senator Edward Pangelinan, his Marianas counterpart on the Micronesian status negotiating team, plan to work within the framework of the congress' Joint Committee on Future Status.

In addition to the five-member Congress of Micronesia delegation, Marianas leaders on the district and municipal level met with the leadership of the Congress of Micronesia last weekend on Guam to discuss the Marianas issue. Although the details of the meeting are still confidential, Guerrero indicated the meeting was productive.

Three Saipan Municipal leaders also traveled to Palau to attend this week's opening of the Congress the first regular session held away from Saipan: Speaker Vicente T. Camacho, Congressman Jose S. Sablan and Village Commissioner Fernando M. Benavente.