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JOINT PRESS RELEASE

The United States Tuesday explained its position with regard to foreign affairs and defense matters in a thirty-minute presentation by Chief Delegate Ambassador Haydn Williams.

Following his presentation, the chairman of the Micronesian Delegation, Senator Lazarus Salii, asked for a recess to study the U.S. presentation.

It was the second day of the fourth round of talks between the U.S. Office for Micronesian Status Negotiations and the Joint Status Committee of the Congress of Micronesia.

Senator Salii was to meet later today with Ambassador Williams to decide on a time for the next meeting.

Ambassador Williams, in his presentation, reiterated the U.S. position at the third round in Hana, Hawaii, and in his opening statement Monday, that the U.S., "by mutual consent and with the approval of the people of Micronesia, would be given responsibilities for foreign affairs and defense."

Today he elaborated on these proposals and sought a reaction from the Micronesian delegation.

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Ambassador Williams outlined defense responsibilities in three categories:

1. The responsibility for the defense of Micronesia;
2. The ability to prevent third parties from using Micronesia for military-related purposes, and
3. The right to use U.S. military bases which might be established in Micronesia to support the United States' security responsibilities in the Pacific Ocean area.

He once again spelled out U.S. land requirements: the continuation of use of those defense establishments in the Marshalls, the new requirement for base rights in the Marianas, primarily on Tinian, and options for possible future requirements in Palau.

"At the present time," he said, "there are no foreseeable military needs in Palau and these options would be exercised only if future developments made it necessary."

In the field of foreign affairs Ambassador Williams elaborated on the role the U.S. envisages for Micronesia and the U.S. in relations with foreign powers and international and regional organizations.