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CAPT. CROWE

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8 (MICRONESIAN STATUS STATEMENT)

9 SAIPAN, APRIL 18 (MNS)---In addition to the official joint
10 communique, the Micronesian delegation to the recent status
11 negotiations in Palau also released their own statement at the
12 conclusion of the talks. While the statement does not differ
13 essentially from the joint communique, it does provide additional
14 details on the talks.

15 Here is the full text of the Micronesian release:

16 The Micronesian Delegation is pleased at the progress made
17 in the fourth round of talks on Micronesia's future political
18 status. After almost two weeks of discussion with United States
19 representatives, we believe that we have laid the foundations
20 of an agreement which may enable us to end the Trusteeship and

1 create a new Micronesian State in free association with the
2 United States. With the end of this round of talks, we find
3 ourselves closer than we have ever been to self-government in
4 Micronesia.

5 "The Palau talks witnessed the continuation of the progress
6 made in Hana in obtaining recognition by the United States of
7 the four basic principles and legal rights which the Micronesian
8 Delegation considers essential parts of any future status. At
9 Hana, the two Delegations arrived at substantial agreement on
10 the first three of these four crucial issues. First, the
11 Delegations agreed at Hana -- and reaffirmed at Koror -- that
12 the Compact we negotiate is an expression of Micronesian
13 sovereignty, of our people's right to self-determination, the
14 right to freely choose our political future. Secondly, the
15 Delegations agreed that Micronesians had the right to adopt a
16 constitution and laws which are consistent with their own needs.
17* Third, the Delegations agreed that the people of Micronesia
18 should have control of their land. Only those bases and options
19 which were negotiated as part of the Compact would fall under
20 U.S. authority. Otherwise, only Micronesians would own

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1 Micronesian land and only Micronesians would exercise the power
2 of eminent domain.

3 "The progress made at Hana in securing recognition of
4 Micronesia's right to self-determination, to control of laws, to
5 basic ownership of land, left one large area of disagreement to
6 be settled in Palau. This was the issue of termination, of
7 how -- and by whom -- any future Compact between the United States
8 and Micronesia might be ended. At Hana, the United States
9 proposed that termination require the consent of both sides. At
10 Hana, and at Koror, the Micronesian Delegation maintained that
11 unilateral termination -- by either side, without the other
12 side's consent -- was an essential safeguard of Micronesia's
13 rights.

14 "While insisting on Micronesia's need to control its
15 political destiny, the Micronesian Delegation also recognized
16 the United States need to be able to make plans on a long-range
17 basis and to be confident of a stable presence in the Pacific.

18 "The Micronesian Delegation presented an approach designed
19 to accommodate the interests of both sides. In its essential
20 principles it was accepted by both sides. As slightly modified

1 during negotiations, the termination proposal has four main
2 features.

3 "One: To ensure that the relation of Free Association is
4 given a fair test, the Compact between the United States and
5 Micronesia will be terminable by mutual consent only during
6 an initial period of years. The Micronesian side proposed that
7 this period shall last five years; the United States proposed
8 a period of fifteen years. Further negotiations on this point
9 will be necessary.

10 "Two: After the initial period has passed, the Compact
11 will become unilaterally terminable by either the United States
12 or Micronesia.

13 "Three: In Micronesia, termination would require a vote of
14 both the Congress of Micronesia and the people of Micronesia.

15 "Four: If the Compact is terminated and the relationship
16 of Free Association between the United States and Micronesia is
17 ended, a security treaty will specify the terms of continued
18 American presence in Micronesia. This security treaty will have
19 been negotiated prior to the beginning of the Compact.

20 "Many details of termination remain to be negotiated, but

1 the Micronesian Delegation welcomed the United States' acceptance
2 of Micronesia's basic right duly to terminate any compact it
3 enters.

4 "The Micronesian Delegation believes that United States
5 acceptance of Micronesia's right of unilateral termination,
6 combined with previous acceptance of Micronesia's right to
7 self-determination and Micronesia's control of laws and lands,
8 constitute the basis of an eventual agreement with the United
9 States. Micronesia's four basic principles and legal rights have
10 been recognized.

11 "Both Delegations recognized the need for a smooth and orderly
12 transition from the current Trust Territory Government to the new
13 Government of Micronesia. It was agreed that an early step in
14 transition would be the calling of a constitutional convention
15 to determine the form of future government. A number of interim
16 steps over the transition period would provide for the gradual
17 phasing out of the current government and the orderly assumption
18 of executive power by the new government.

19 "Discussion of finance did not proceed beyond preliminary
20 stages. The United States Delegation did not believe detailed

1 discussion of the level of support and compensation to be granted
2 Micronesia by the United States would be appropriate at this
3 stage of negotiations. The Micronesian Delegation proposed that
4 the financing furnished by the United States might be divided
5 into four basic areas. These were:

6 "One: The continuing economic support to be provided
7 Micronesia during its transition from Trusteeship to economic
8 independence.

9 "Two: Compensation for the agreement by Micronesia to deny
10 the use of its land and waters to military forces of any nation
11 other than the United States.

12 "Three: Payment for the continuing right to use specified
13 land and waters for U.S. military bases and operations, and

14 "Four: Payment for specific rentals for military use of
15 land and territorial waters, and options on specific land and
16 territorial waters.

17 "In conclusion, the fourth round of status talks in Koror
18 saw agreement on the Micronesian requirements for unilateral
19 termination; it saw a Micronesian recognition of the U.S. need
20 for defense and foreign affairs authority in Micronesia. It saw

1 preliminary discussion of transition and finance, which are
2 matters of importance to both Delegations.

3 "Many details, and some large issues, remain to be dealt
4 with in future meetings with United States representatives. It
5 is clear, for instance, that all of the above understandings
6 depend on agreement on the nature of financing.

7 "Apart from the matter of financing, there remain some
8 questions about the United States attitude toward Micronesian
9 sovereignty. The United States position appears to recognize
10 Micronesian sovereignty only insofar as it relates to the making
11 of this Compact. The United States declines to acknowledge any
12 inherent sovereignty on the part of either the people or the
13 future Government of Micronesia. This reservation on the part
14 of the United States may yet create serious problems for the
15 negotiations. Also, while it was generally agreed by both sides
16 that the United States should have broad authority in the fields
17 of foreign affairs and defense, there remain serious problems
18 with reference to the exact scope and nature of such authority---
19 particularly in the field of foreign affairs.

20 "Despite the work that remains ahead, however, the Micronesian

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1 Delegation believes that some basis for agreement has already
2 been established. When these negotiations began, Micronesia was
3 a Trust Territory and there were those who would have had it
4 remain so. The first substantial United States offer would have
5 made Micronesia a Territory; the next would have made it a
6 Commonwealth. These were not acceptable proposals. But now, at
7 last, we see the emergence of a new and unique political status,
8 a self-governing Micronesia in free association with the United
9 States. It is a status the Micronesian Delegation believes can
10 be recommended to the Congress of Micronesia and the United
11 States and to the people of both nations -- an honorable end to
12 the Trusteeship and the beginning of a new national life in
13 Micronesia."

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