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# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

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OFFICE OF MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS

(202) 343-9143  
343-3171

For Immediate Release

## FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS OF MICRONESIA OUTLINED IN NEW DRAFT COMPACT

Ambassador Franklin Haydn Williams, the President's personal representative for Micronesian Status Negotiations, announced today that the fifth round of U. S. -Micronesian talks on the future political status of the Pacific Islands concluded August 1 in Washington.

Portions of a draft compact to define the relationship between the United States and the future government of Micronesia was drawn up during the three-week conference. The draft document outlines most main features of the relationship after the trusteeship is terminated.

The Micronesian delegation, headed by Senator Salii, will present the draft compact to a special session of the Micronesian Congress scheduled for August 14. Another meeting of the two delegations will be held in late September in Hawaii, presumably to fill out the framework of the draft compact and to iron out some remaining points for agreement. Ambassador Williams reported that the future status of the Mariana Islands District will be discussed later this year with representatives for that District.

The draft compact -- the culmination of three years of status talk sessions -- deals with five of the six districts of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands: Palau, Yap, Ponape, Truk and Marshalls. Within the sixth District -- Marianas -- strong interest has been expressed in a closer association with the United States than the five other Districts seek.

Both delegations working on the draft compact, according to the joint communique issued August 1, "agree that the draft Compact language remains tentative and preliminary, pending final agreement on the Compact as a whole."

The draft calls for a "Free Association, a system of self-government appropriate to the particular circumstances of Micronesia and its people and in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the people concerned."

Under the proposed document, the duly constituted Government of Micronesia would have full responsibility for internal affairs of Micronesia. The United States would have "full responsibility and authority over all matters

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which relate to the foreign affairs and defense of Micronesia. Matters relating to financing, trade and commerce, nationality, and transition procedures remain to be dealt with.

Representatives of the U. S. Department of the Interior (which administers the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands), the Department of Defense, and the Department of State comprise the United States delegation.

NOTE TO EDITORS: Full text of the draft compact is available from the Office of Micronesian Status Negotiations, Room 6515, Interior Building, or from the Interior Department's Office of Communications, Room 7215.

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