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OFFICE FOR MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS

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MARIANA ISLANDS STATUS NEGOTIATIONS

The opening round of negotiations on the future political status of the Mariana Islands will be held December 13, 1972, on Saipan, in the Mariana Islands District of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. The Trust Territory is administered by the United States under a United Nations Trusteeship Agreement and comprises over 2,000 islands in the Western Pacific area adjacent to the US Territory of Guam. The bloodiest battles of WW II were fought in the Mariana Islands and it was from Tinian that the Enola Gay made its historic flight that helped bring a swift conclusion to the war.

found
the large airfields on
in the Marianas

Although the Mariana Islands District is a part of six administrative areas and is represented in the Territory wide Congress of Micronesia which is currently negotiating a Compact of Free Association with the United States, the residents have consistently supported a more close association with the United States. In a formal request last April to the US status delegation in Palau District, the Marianas leadership requested separate status talks, and stated that they desired "a more close political relationship with the United States". They cited, "the spirit of two hundred years of democracy, of a society which practiced the theory that a government should be of the people, by the people, and for the people, of the Bill of Rights ensuring that every man is created

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the Marianas leadership
with the U.S. delegation
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equal under law and guaranting his human rights, of a country which has historically been a refuge for the oppressed and a land of opportunity for all epeople, was brought to Micronesia by the United States. For the ~~first~~ first time ~~in~~ in four centurues the people of the Marianas now ~~live~~ live as free~~n~~ men. Political union with~~t~~ the United States will ensure that we keep this freedom~~s~~ so long denied to us." ~~THE~~ **THE** request ^{for separate talks} was accepted ~~at that time~~ by the US delegation.

The Marianas then proceeded to establish a political status commission comprising local business, political and social leaders of a wide cross seciton of the residents of the district. Senator Edward DLG. Pangelinan has been made chairman and President Vicente N. Santos of the Mariana Islad-s District Legislature, vice-chairman. The United States Delegation is comprised of representatives of the Departments of State, Defense, Justice and Interior and is headed by Ambassador Franklin Hadyn Williams, the President's Personal Representative to the Micronesian Status Negotiations.

~~Although~~ opening ceremonies are ~~largely~~ to be largely ceremonial and there is great excitement in the Mariana Islands communitiy ^{with} ~~and~~ elaborate preparations ~~are~~ being prepared ~~by~~ ~~for~~ in anticipation of the talks. Despite the gaiety, the two delegations are expected to discuss and exchange ~~a~~ their views on the ~~structure/and/~~ framework the 'clsoe and permanent association' will take.