DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

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MARIANAS, U.S. TO NEGOTIATE
ON ISLANDS' FUTURE STATUS

Ambassador Franklin Haydn Williams, the President's Personal Representative

for Micronesian Status Negotiations, announced today that the United States has

accepted an invitation from the Marianas Political Status Commission to meet in

Saipan December 13th for the formal opening round of talks on the future

political status of the Marianas District of the Trust Territory of the Pacific

Islands.

The Mariana Islands District is administered by the United States Govern-

ment under a United Nations Trusteeship Agreement. During the past year the

United States has been conducting talks with representatives of the Congress of

Micronesia regarding the future political status of the other five districts

of Micronesia. Plans for these continuing negotiations will be discussed at

a meeting between the Chairman of the Micronesian Joint Future Status

Committee and Ambassador Williams in Guam in advance of the U.S.-Marianas talks.

Last April, during talks with the Micronesian Delegation at Koror, Palau,
the representatives from the Mariana Islands District informed Ambassador
Williams that the Marianas wished to seek a future status separate from the
rest of Micronesia which would involve a form of political union with the
United States.

In supporting their request for separate negotiations, the representatives
said: "We advocate our present position for the sole reason that we desire
membership in the United States political family because of the demonstrated
advantages of such a relationship. More than any other nation with which we
have had contact, the United States has brought to our people the values which
we cherish and the economic goals which we desire. Continued affiliation with
the United States offers the promise of the preservation of these values and
the implementation of these goals."

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