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7,24 Status
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1973

1 Yap District where the Coast Guard played a major role in
2 cleaning up the oil from the ship, preventing it from spilling
3 into the open ocean.

4 During the meeting, the board adopted a Manual of Procedures,
5 TT Water Quality Standards and Water Pollution Control
6 Regulations.

7 The board also voted to request amendment ^{of} T.T. PL 4C-78
8 relating to pollution so that it would conform to Federal
9 standards, and provide for civil and criminal penalties. This
10 would give the TT Environmental Protection Board more latitude
11 and jurisdiction in enforcing local laws and regulations as
12 well as penalizing violators. Mrs. Effie Sparling, Legal counsel
13 for the board, was designated to work on the proposed amendment.

14 (NOTE TO EDITORS AND NEWS DIRECTORS: A SPECIAL INTERVIEW WITH
15 THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA JOINT COMMITTEE ON
16 FUTURE STATUS, SENATOR LAZARUS SALII OF PALAU, WAS BEING
17 DISTRIBUTED TO BROADCAST STATIONS IN THE SIX DISTRICTS LAST WEEK.
18 INTERVIEW PARTICIPANTS INCLUDE ELIAS THOMAS, ASSISTANT CHIEF,
19 BROADCAST DIVISION; HALVORSEN JOHNNY, ACTING STATION MANAGER,
20 WSZD-PONAPE; BAURINO OINGERANG, NEWS DIRECTOR, WSZB-PALAU; AND

1 GUADALUPE BORJA, INFORMATION SPECIALIST, HEADQUARTERS PUBLIC
2 INFORMATION. MISS BORJA PREPARED THE FOLLOWING SUMMARY OF THE
3 INTERVIEW FOR MNS SUBSCRIBERS.)

4 SAIPAN, Feb. 20, (MNS)---An interview with Senator Lazarus
5 Salii--who heads the future political status negotiations for
6 the Congress of Micronesia--has revealed the tentative scheduling
7 for the resumption of those negotiations. Salii says that the
8 next round of talks are tentatively set for May of this year in
9 Washington, D.C. The interview was taperecorded and distributed
10 to district broadcast stations last week.

11 The progress of the negotiations was the main topic covered,
12 but other areas relating to the future political status of
13 Micronesia were also discussed.

14 According to the Senator, the last round of talks at Barbers
15 Point, Hawaii, in October, 1972, ended with no new agreements
16 other than those arrived at the previous talks of July, 1972, in
17 Washington, D.C. The reason for this, explained the Senator, is
18 that the Committee's presentation, confused the U.S. Delegation,
19 so that the U.S. Delegation had no other course but to go back
20 to the U.S. government for further instructions.

1 Thus the status of the negotiations to date includes only
2 tentative agreement in the areas of defense and foreign affairs.
3 Remaining to be discussed are the matters of finance and
4 termination, said the Senator, and this will be ^{on} the agenda for
5 the next round of talks tentatively scheduled for May, 1973,
6 in Washington, D.C. These questions involve the manner and
7 amount of payments the U.S. will make to Micronesia in her free
8 associated relationship with Micronesia and the question of how
9 and when the free associated relationship will be terminated.

10 In the areas of defense and foreign affairs, continued the
11 Senator, Micronesia will not establish a formal government
12 agreement with any country other than the U.S.

13 Salii then went on to list the four basic principles upon
14 which his Committee is pursuing the negotiations. These
15 principles, recognized by the U.S., are: 1) that the Micronesian
16 people, as any other people on earth, have the right of
17 sovereignty; 2) that the Micronesian people have the right to
18 draft their own constitution; 3) that the Micronesian people
19 have the right to all lands in Micronesia, that these islands are
20 our islands and ours alone; and 4) that the Micronesian people

1 have the right to devise their own laws and have internal
2 self-government.

3 Based on these principles, the Committee is negotiating
4 first for a free associated state for Micronesia. If the U.S.
5 does not agree to such a status for Micronesia, then the
6 Committee will negotiate for independence, said Salii.

7 Salii said, "A free associated state occurs when a bigger
8 country makes an agreement with a smaller country, and the
9 smaller country gives favored treatment to the bigger country
10 in return for certain benefits. In Micronesia's case, Micronesia
11 would grant certain land areas to the U.S. for American military
12 purposes, since the primary U.S. interest in Micronesia is land
13 for military purposes. In addition, the U.S. would be the only
14 country with which Micronesia would establish a formal government
15 agreement; Micronesia would not enter an agreement with a third
16 country to allow that country to enter Micronesia for military
17 purposes. Micronesia would depend on the U.S. for her defense.

18 In return, continued Salii, the U.S. would provide financial
19 assistance, as well as technical aid and other assistance to
20 Micronesia.

1 The important thing to remember in this type of political
2 agreement, emphasized Salii, is that at some point in the
3 relationship, one or the other of the partners can terminate
4 the agreement when one no longer needs the other.

5 On the other hand, independence for Micronesia would mean
6 that Micronesia would be a fully sovereign nation whereby she
7 would have no formal government agreements with other countries
8 other than treaties which equal governments enter, explained Salii.

9 Regarding the American military use of land in Micronesia,
10 Salii stated that four things must be considered whenever there
11 is military presence in a country. One, that certain lands
12 would be inaccessible to Micronesians. Two, the consideration of
13 the social impact of the military on our island community. Third,
14 the consideration of the kinds of military devices that would be
15 brought in, and lastly, the consideration of the fact that
16 Micronesia makes itself a possible target if the U.S. makes war
17 with another country. Salii declared that if the undersirable
18 effects of military presence in Micronesia can be eliminated,
19 there should be no cause for hardships for Micronesians because
20 of American military presence.

1 When asked the reason for the Palauan leaders' declaration
2 of November, 1972, that the American military was not welcome in
3 Palau, Salii answered that the Palauan leaders are demanding the
4 return of all lands in Palau to the people. Once these lands,
5 which include military retention lands and other areas, are
6 returned, the leaders as representatives of the people, will
7 listen to the U.S. request for military lands and then can
8 negotiate.

9 When asked whether Micronesians can draft their own
10 constitution, Salii answered that there is nobody better
11 qualified to draft the Micronesian Constitution than the
12 Micronesian people themselves. A Constitutional Convention Bill
13 is now pending in this session of the Congress of Micronesia,
14 added Salii.

15 Regarding the separate status negotiations by the Marianas,
16 Salii said that although the Marianas have begun their separate
17 talks with the U.S., his Committee is negotiating for the entire
18 territory, including the Marianas, because the law requires it.

19 On the question of how the U.N. Visiting Mission, which is
20 currently travelling throughout the Territory, will affect his

1 Committee's negotiations, Salii said that the Visiting Mission
2 trips to the Trust Territory have always resulted in
3 recommendations to the U.N. Trusteeship Council on how Micronesia
4 can progress further in her efforts towards self-determination
5 and this year's trip will undoubtedly present similar
6 recommendations.

7 As far as the timetable for the ending of the negotiations,
8 Salii said that no timetable can be set for such a serious matter
9 as deciding the future political status of our islands. However,
10 the sooner the Draft Compact of Free Association can be completed,
11 the better for all concerned--Micronesia as well as the U.S. Once
12 the Compact is completed, the Committee will present the document
13 to the Congress of Micronesia. It will thereafter be presented
14 to the Micronesian people, explained Salii, and if the people do
15 not approve the Draft Compact, the Committee will then negotiate
16 with the U.S. for independence.

17 The Senator's final statement in the interview was the
18 following. He said, "On an issue as profound as our future, we
19 we have to be sure of what we want. I ask Micronesians, on behalf
20 of all the members of the Committee, to be patient, to give us

1 their support in the form of suggestions on our future political
2 status and on other related matters. And finally, I ask the
3 people of Micronesia to understand that negotiating for
4 Micronesia's future political status is a difficult task."

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