

PRESS RELEASE

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On May 15 in Saipan U.S. representatives will meet with a delegation from the Marianas District of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands to resume negotiation of arrangements to bring the Marianas Islands into the American political family, it was announced in Washington today by Ambassador Franklin Haydn Williams, the President's Personal Representative for Micronesian Status Negotiations. The Ambassador indicated that the negotiations will be preceded by informal preliminary discussions beginning in Saipan May 8.

The U.S.-Marianas talks were formally inaugurated last December in response to repeated requests from the people of the Marianas for a close and permanent relationship with the United States. Following the initial sessions a joint communique reported that the two sides would meet again this spring to work out the necessary arrangements in detail. These would be submitted subsequently to the U.S. Congress and the Marianas District Legislature for approval and placed before the people of the Marianas in a plebiscite.

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Marianas Delegation are, respectively, Senator Edward Pangelinan, and President Vicente Santos of the Marianas District Legislature. The other 13 members of the Marianas Delegation, selected pursuant to a resolution of the District Legislature, represent a cross-section of the Marianas community.