

U.S. Accused of Cheating Micronesians

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UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. (AP) — The United Nations today circulated charges by the Micronesian senate that the United States is cheating people on a tiny Pacific island out of payment for land used in a missile testing range.

"The United States armed forces have retained and used the island of Roi-Namur for defense purposes . . . without having compensated the landowners for the use and occupancy of their lands," declared a Micronesian senate resolution received by the Trusteeship Council.

It asked the United Nations for financial help in resettling the people of Roi-Namur in case U.S. funds are not forthcoming.

THE RESOLUTION made no mention of current negotiations on the issue between the U.S. military and the Micronesians.

U.S. sources said the two sides were only a few thousand dollars apart. They regarded the resolution as an attempt to influence the talks.

Fewer than 100 persons are involved in the claims over 420-acre Roi-Namur, in the atoll of Kwajalein, 2,000 miles west of Hawaii.

Civilian inhabitants were moved off the island by the Japanese before World War II.

After the war, the United States assumed rule of the area under a U.N. mandate.

In 1965, the U.S. Trust Territories administration ruled that the Roi-Namur people had not been compensated by the Japanese and were entitled to payment by the United States. Sporadic negotiations have been underway since, U.S. sources said.

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Micronesia Status Talks Are Postponed

The United States and Micronesia will resume formal talks late this summer on a new political status for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

The talks previously had been expected to take place this month in Washington.

Meetings were held in Honolulu Friday and Saturday between Ambassador Franklin Haydn Williams and Sen. Lazarus Sali of Palau, who announced the new timetable.

Williams is President Nixon's personal representative for the negotiations. Sali is chairman of the Congress of Micronesia's Joint Committee on Future Status.

They said they agreed to take these steps before the formal discussions resume:

—The United States will study the possibility of early return of public trust lands to Micronesia in consultation with the Congress of Micronesia, the districts and various officials.

—A series of informal meetings will be held to prepare a draft compact of Free Association between the U.S. and Micronesia. The first meeting will be held next month.

Under the free association plan, the Micronesians would manage their own lands and laws while the United States would supervise international affairs. The United States also would be responsible for the military defense of Micronesia.