

RESUMPTION OF STATUS TALKS

SAIPAN--(MNS)---Three officials of the U.S. Office of Micronesian Status Negotiations arrived on Saipan Tuesday afternoon (May 8) to begin laying the groundwork for a resumption of the Mariana Islands status negotiations, scheduled to get underway Tuesday, May 15.

Headed by the assistant
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head of the American delegation, James M. Wilson, Jr., the group also includes an attorney, former Yap Peace Corps Volunteer Adrian DeGraffenried, and a U.S. Army Officer, Colonel Athol M. Smith.

Wilson is deputy to Ambassador Franklin Hadyn Williams, President Nixon's Personal Representative for Micronesian Status Negotiations, who will arrive Sunday for the talks. Ambassador Williams is presently in the Marshall Islands, and plans a stopover in Truk District before coming to Saipan.

The three-man advance team will be setting up a temporary office for the American delegation, at the Hafa Adai Hotel, and will meet with officials of the Mariana Islands Political Status Commission to talk over the agenda for the negotiations. A spokesman said the talks are tentatively set to be held in the chambers of the Saipan Municipal Council in Cahlan Kanoa. Senator Edward Pangelinan is chairman of the Marianas delegation.