

PRESS RELEASE

May 19, 1973

Ambassador Haydn Williams and Senator Edward Pangelinan, Chairmen respectively of the American and Marianas Delegations, both expressed today satisfaction with the progress that had been made during the past week in the five working sessions of the two delegations. The twice-a-day meetings involving long hours of free questioning and frank exchange with full participation on both sides have produced so far, according to the two Chairmen, a clearer understanding of each other's positions on a number of substantive issues relating to status. The agenda and all of the working discussions to date have been centered on the essential elements and the basic nature of the political relationship between the United States and the Marianas. Recent sessions have concentrated on such topics within this heading as the source of political status, the degree of internal autonomy or self-government, the applicability of the U.S. Constitution and U.S. laws, national security and foreign affairs, representation in Washington, citizenship and nationality, the federal judicial system, and features of a Marianas constitution.

A meeting of a special sub-panel of legal experts from both sides was called for today to explore further various technical questions and the application of federal legislation and laws. Tomorrow afternoon the Marianas Delegation will be the guests of the American side at a late afternoon picnic on Managaha Island. The next working session of the two delegations will be held Monday at 10 a.m.

