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Status Talkers Meet Again Today At 10

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SAIPAN - The American and Marianas delegations get together again at 10 a.m. today to begin a second week of talks about the future status of the Marianas islands.

The first official week of the current set of talks was concluded with a working session on Saturday, after which the sides issued a joint statement saying they now had "a clearer understanding of each other's positions."

U.S. Ambassador Franklin Haydn Williams and Marianas Chairman Edward Pangelinan "both expressed...satisfaction with the progress that had been made during the past week in the five working sessions."

Those sessions, the statement said, have involved "long hours of free questioning and frank exchange...."

"Recent sessions have concentrated on such topics ... 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."

On Saturday a subpanel of legal experts was set to discuss technical questions.