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## **Plan for Marianas Gives Some Status Of Commonwealth**

AGANA, Guam, May 23 (AP)—Representatives of the United States and the Northern Marianas Islands announced today that they had reached a "broad preliminary understanding" on an agreement that could bring the islands into a commonwealth relationship with the United States.

The agreement, which is subject to further negotiations, would grant the 13,000 residents of the Marianas the right to become American citizens, and they would be allowed to elect their own governor.

Land requirements for United States military bases, financial arrangements and transitional arrangements still remain to be discussed, according to a statement issued by the Marianas delegates and Franklin Haydn Williams, President Nixon's personal representative to the negotiations.

The statement said both sides had reached preliminary agreement that the United States would hold sovereignty over the islands and would control their foreign relations.

### **May Have Congress Delegate**

A delegate to the United States Congress from the island will be discussed and some arrangements would be made for those residents who do not wish to become American citizens, the statement said.

All of those preliminary understandings are subject to approval by the Marianas legislature, the United States Congress and a plebiscite of the island residents.

The Marianas, scene of some of the bloodiest battles of World War II, are part of the United Nations trust territory of the Pacific, which is administered by the United States. The islands are directly north of Guam.

Mr. Williams is now involved in separate status negotiations with the rest of the trust territory. The Marianas have moved for closer ties to the United States, but other parts of the territory have talked of looser ties, or even independence.

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