

Council Hears Division Claim From Amaraich

From Daily News Wires

UNITED NATIONS -- A Micronesian Senator accused the United States yesterday of trying to divide his people by holding separate negotiations with representatives of the Marianas Islands.

Sen. Andon Amaraich also told the U.N. Trusteeship Council the United States retains too much control in the executive and judicial branches of the islands' government. He said those branches refuse to carry out or enforce any decisions of the Congress of Micronesia.

The Trusteeship Council opened its annual debate yesterday on Micronesia.

Amaraich said the United States has been delaying negotiations since the Congress of Micronesia decided in August that the talks should cover the possibility of complete independence.

He said the U.S. has everything to gain in a policy of delay, "The United States controls our formal government, U.S. citizens occupy the highest positions in two of the three supposedly equal branches of our government."

He said the most important decisions affecting Micronesia are now being made in Washington "by people who live, work thousands of miles away and by Americans rather than Micronesians."

The Congress of Micronesia, said Amaraich, had assumed that the United States would work with Micronesia toward achievement of self-government, in accordance with its trusteeship obligation.

"Sadly, this has not proved to be the case," he stated. "Micronesia interests, far more often than not, have proved to be greatly different from United States interest."

The vast majority of the people of Micronesia, he said, "have no use for the United States military."

Referring to the separate negotiations, the Senator accused the United States of fanning "the

flames within our nation." Following the Marianas example, he noted, "two districts have already taken the preliminary steps toward their own separate negotiations with the United States."

Discussing economy, education and health services in the islands, Micronesian Congressman Joe Sigrah said it was "becoming increasingly clear that if the interests of Micronesia are to be promoted, it is going to be up to Micronesians through their Congress to blaze the trail. We can no longer afford to sit back and wait for the administering authority to act."

The Council heard U.S. Delegate William E. Schaufele Jr. who gave a detailed account on the negotiations between the U.S. Government and the Congress of Micronesia. He informed the Council that the talks on the future political status of the territory had been interrupted since February due to a dispute over public lands in the Palau district.

Since the suspension, he said, "There has been informal contact between the two sides and we now have reason to expect that formal resumption of the talks will take place later this summer."

Schauffele also confirmed that direct negotiations with representatives of the Mariana Islands on "a commonwealth arrangement" had just ended.

U.S. High Commissioner Edward E. Johnston reported about economic and educational progress in Micronesia, but pointed out that it had been slowed by lack of funds.

"There has been a retrenchment in almost all U.S. federal programs in line with President Nixon's desire to control inflation," he said. "Therefore, it definitely is not realistic to anticipate that in any fiscal year we would receive sufficient federal funds to complete every worthwhile project .. we must continue, of course, to set priorities to the best of our ability."

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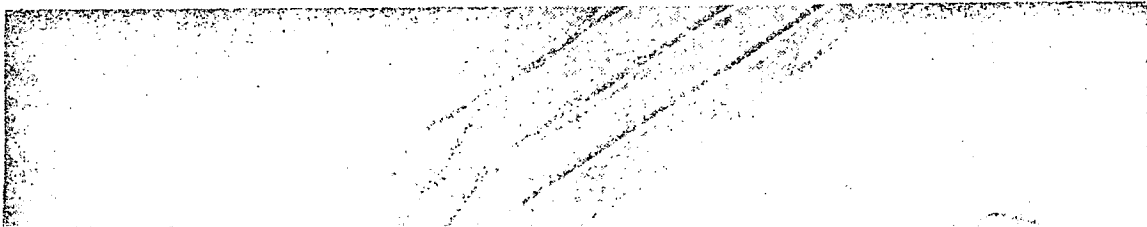
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