

TT Status Units Begin Meetings

Saipan (MNS) — The Joint Committee on Future Status of the Congress of Micronesia has begun a series of meetings with the people of all districts to get up-to-date readings on how the people feel about the status question. The meetings are scheduled for all district centers and most sub-district centers.

The committee has divided itself into two groups for the travelling, half of the members going to the western districts of Yap, Palau and the Marianas. The other half is visiting Truk, Ponape and the Marshalls. The members left Guam last weekend, following a one-day meeting of the entire committee on Guam last week.

Heading the group visiting the western districts is committee chairman Sen. Lazarus Sali (Palau). With him are Sens. Ambilos Iehsi (Ponape), Andon Amaraich (Truk), John Magefel

(Yap), Edward Pangelinan (Marianas) and the newest committee member, Rep. Ataji Balos (Marshalls), who recently was named to replace Sen. Amata Kabua on the committee. Pangelinan has been delayed but is expected to join the group within a few days.

The others arrived in Yap District Saturday and within an hour of their arrival were involved in their first meeting —

with Yapese women's organizations. On Sunday, the group met with the chiefs and people of Tomil and Gagil municipalities. One observer remarked on the basis of these first meetings that the leaders and people of Yap seem to be well informed on the status question and are hitting the most practical issues in their questioning of the committee.

The other half of the

committee, headed by co-chairman Rep. Ekpap Silk (Marshalls), also arrived Saturday in Truk District. Included in that group are Sens. Roman Tmetuchl (Palau), Tosiwo Nakayama (Truk), Bailey Olter (Ponape) and Rep. Herman Q. Guerrero (Marianas). They were guests at a luncheon hosted by District Administrator Juan Sablan shortly after their arrival. The

group then left the district center of Moen via the M/V Ran Annim for Lukunor, in the Mortlock Islands, some 171 miles southwest of the Truk lagoon.

The western group is to visit Koror, Rota, Tinian and Saipan as it continues its portion of the hearings during the next two weeks. The eastern group will visit Ponape, Kusaie, Kwajalein/Ereye and Majuro.