

# Salii, Williams Issue Status Paper

6 Sept '73

SAIPAN—Following meetings held last week the chairman of the U.S. and Congress of Micronesia delegations to the Micronesian future status negotiations have issued a joint statement detailing the matters discussed. The complete text of that joint statement reads:

“Ambassador Franklin Haydn Williams, the President’s personal representative for Micronesian Status Negotiations and Sen. Lazarus Salii, chairman of the Congress of Micronesia’s Joint Committee on Future Status, met on Guam Aug. 30 to

discuss a wide range of matters relating to the future status negotiations. Also present were Congressman Ekapap Silk, co-chairman of the Joint Committee, and Capt. Richard Scott, USN, director of the Office for Micronesian Status Negotiations.

“Like other informal sessions which the Chairman of the two delegations have been holding approximately monthly, the constructive, fruitful discussion of Aug. 30 made an important contribution to the preparatory work going forward prior to the resumption of talks by the full delegations later this autumn. It was agreed that the primary common objective remains the early completion of the necessary preparatory work and subsequent completion of the Draft Compact of Free Association.

“Ambassador Williams noted that two U.S. fact-finding teams have just completed tours of all the districts and he gave Senator Salii summaries of their preliminary reports on views expressed to them in the districts on the public lands question. Additional studies on land will be made prior to a meeting of the two delegations.

“Also discussed were the economic moratorium on Tinian

and pending charges involving three members of the Trust Territory Administration.

“Another important substantive issue discussed at length was political education. There was agreement on the need for an extensive political education program for the Micronesian people. Sen. Salii and Ambassador Williams felt that it would be useful to hold further discussions on how such a program might best be designed and implemented. They planned to consult with the TTPI administration on the matter at an early date.

“Finally, the two sides discussed the time table for the resumption of talks by their full delegations. It was felt that in view of the work still to be accomplished, particularly on questions relating to land, it was probable that the delegations would not meet until late October or early November.”

Salii told the Daily News yesterday that Majuro and Ponape were being considered as meeting sites, along with Truk as was previously mentioned. He indicated that Majuro was a likely prospect, because of its politically separatist tendencies and because the Congress of Micronesia has now decided not to meet there in January.