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S. Pacific Meeting Bogged By Changes

"The Guam meeting of the South Pacific Conference may be a milestone for the South Pacific Commission," United States representative William B. Taylor III said Friday morning.

"The non-self governing countries should play more important roles in the Pacific basin. The U.S. supports Australia's and Guam's proposals to make these meetings more effective. We are prepared to amend the Canberra Agreement if necessary," said Taylor.

The 13th South Pacific Conference got bogged down Friday discussing possible changes in the Commission proposed by Australia and added to by Guam. This was only item five on the conference's 15-item agenda.

After lengthy discussion, the body passed a resolution to approve a de facto merger of the conference and South Pacific Commission and that the SPC be financed on a part-voluntary basis from 1975, as proposed by Australia. A committee was appointed by Chairman Lt. Gov. Kurt Moylan to study the proposals and report to the conference tomorrow.

After a weekend of fiestas and tours of Guam, the conferees will meet again

tomorrow at 8:30.

First, J.A. Walding, leader of the New Zealand delegation will address the group.

Other items scheduled to be discussed tomorrow are the South Pacific Regional Development Bank, consideration of long term projects, fisheries development, regional transport survey, funding of programs and budget.

During the week, the Commission's work programs for 1974 were discussed and many were accepted.

Some projects accepted were a sixth regional seminar on education, to be held in the British Solomon Islands; a territorial training course on the operation of pre-school centers, to be held in the Cook Islands; continuation of the Community Education Training Center in Fiji and a regional planning conference on out-of-school youth and sub-regional meeting on non-formal education design for those working with drop-outs.

Projects in the field of cultural enhancement were supported. They included a workshop to establish a South Pacific Arts Festival Council, financial support for recording traditional Fijian music and the creation of arts and crafts

centers in French Polynesia.

The conference approved a Regional Conference of Directors of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, to take place in Lae, Papua New Guinea.

The SPC's budget for 1974 was increased by 15 per cent when member governments, Australia, Fiji, France, Nauru, New Zealand, United Kingdom, United States and Western Samoa, announced their contributions.

The Conference noted with appreciation that in addition to maintaining 500 members of the Peace Corps in the region, the U.S. offered three Dept. of State graduate student grants available to candidates from English and French speaking territories, but excluding nationals of metropolitan countries and U.S. territories.

The Government of Guam announced that it will offer a number of four-year scholarships to the University of Guam, and study facilities at the Micronesian Area Research Center, to a total value of approximately US \$19,800.