

Won Pat Urges Congress Support On Status Review

WASHINGTON

Antonio B. Won Pat has introduced legislation calling on Congress to support Guam's efforts to review its political status.

The congressman's bill, which took the form of a Concurrent Resolution traditionally used to signal congressional intent, asks that Congress recognize Guam's

right to seek a change in status and simultaneously approve the Island's right to present the findings of the newly-formed Guam Political Status Committee to Capitol Hill for ratification at a later date.

Under the terms of the Treaty of Paris, which vested political control of Guam with the United States and the Guam

Organic Act, Congress must consent to any change in Guam's political status.

"Whatever the outcome of our status discussions, we must be prepared to work closely with Congress to avoid any difficulties which could thwart our plans and hopes for years."

Won Pat told his colleagues in the House that at stake were the political aspirations of the people of Guam. "As Americans, we are simply seeking congressional approval of our efforts to improve our political status." This was an

action, he said, which was "keeping with the American system of government and with the obligation of the United States to the people of Guam."

The Congressman assured his colleagues, however, that Guam intended to stay within the American system. "We do not seek a path which would alienate us from the relationship we have labored long and hard to develop. Rather," he explained, "we seek to establish our own goals with regard to our internal affairs and our continuing relations with the federal government."