

(SALII-WILLIAMS MEET NEXT MONTH)

SAIPAN, SEPT. 25 (MNS)---SENATOR LAZARUS SALII, CHAIRMAN OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA'S JOINT COMMITTEE OF FUTURE STATUS, WILL MEET AGAIN NEXT MONTH WITH UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR FRANKLIN HAYDN WILLIAMS IN ANOTHER OF A SERIES OF INFORMAL MEETINGS AS THE MEN ATTEMPT TO PAVE THE WAY FOR A RESUMPTION OF THE NOW STALLED STATUS NEGOTIATIONS.

THE MEETING WILL BE IN HONOLULU, EARLY IN OCTOBER, SALII SAID THIS WEEK ON SAIPAN, AND WILL ALSO INCLUDE HIS CO-CHAIRMAN ON THE COMMITTEE, CONGRESSMAN EKPAP SILK AND POSSIBLY OTHERS. IT WILL BE A CONTINUING DISCUSSION OF MATTERS THAT WERE TAKEN UP

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DURING A MEETING BETWEEN SALII AND WILLIAMS IN AUGUST ON GUAM.

"THIS WILL BE A FURTHER ATTEMPT TO RESOLVE THESE ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS," SENATOR SALII SAID, "TO SEE WHETHER WE WILL BE READY TO MEET AT THE END OF NEXT MONTH OR NOT,"

THE REFERENCE WAS TO A STATEMENT ISSUED JOINTLY BY SENATOR SALII AND AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS FOLLOWING THE GUAM MEETING, WHICH INDICATED THE TWO SIDES MIGHT MEET AGAIN IN A FULL NEGOTIATING SESSION IN LATE OCTOBER OR EARLY NOVEMBER. IN TALKING WITH MNS, SALII DID NOT SOUND PARTICULARLY HOPEFUL THAT THIS TIMEABLE WILL BE MET, ALTHOUGH HE SAID BOTH SIDES ARE MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO COMPLETE PRELIMINARY WORK. THE MAJOR PROBLEM AREA CONTINUES TO BE LAND, HE SAID.

"THE U.S. HAS YET TO RESPOND TO OUR CONDITION THAT PUBLIC LANDS IN PALAU BE RETURNED TO THE CHIEFS," SALII STATED. "AS I UNDERSTAND IT, THEY ARE WORKING VERY HARD TO FORMULATE THEIR POSITION. THEY HAVE FORWARDED SOME QUESTIONS TO US, AND WE HAVE NOT GIVEN THEM OUR RESPONSE YET, BUT WE ARE ALSO WORKING VERY HARD ON THESE MATTERS. SO THINGS ARE MOVING ALONG."

IT IS NOW NEARLY ONE YEAR SINCE THE TWO SIDES LAST HELD

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A FORMAL NEGOTIATING SESSION, IN OCTOBER OF LAST YEAR IN HAWAII. ALTHOUGH DISCUSSION STILL POINTS TO A RESUMPTION OF THE TALKS IN NOVEMBER, THERE ARE SOME INDICATIONS THE TALKS MAY NOT RESUME UNTIL DECEMBER AT THE EARLIEST. IN TERMS OF SCHEDULING THERE ARE SOME PROBLEMS TOWARD THE END OF THE YEAR. THE U.S. IS ALREADY TENTATIVELY COMMITTED TO ANOTHER SESSION WITH THE MARIANA ISLANDS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION IN LATE NOVEMBER.

THE SECOND REGULAR SESSION OF THE FIFTH CONGRESS WILL BEGIN ON SAIPAN ON JANUARY 7, SO THAT IF THERE WERE NO RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS BEFORE THAT TIME IT WOULD MEAN THE TALKS COULD NOT BEGIN AGAIN UNTIL MARCH, 1974, FOLLOWING THE CONGRESS SESSION. THE JOINT COMMITTEE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE ANOTHER ROUND OF TALKS BEFORE THE NEXT CONGRESSIONAL SESSION OF POSSIBLE. A BETTER INDICATION OF WHETHER OR NOT THIS IS POSSIBLE IS LIKELY TO COME OUT OF THE MEETING BETWEEN SENATOR SALII AND AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS NEXT MONTH IN HAWAII.

(PALAU AUTHORITY LOANS READY)

PALAU, SEPT. 25 (MNS)---THE PALAU FISHING AUTHORITY IS NOW