

Marianas III



WILLIAMS, on arrival at Saipan yesterday. Aides said chief U.S. negotiator is recovering from flu. (Daily News Photo by Diane Maddex)

Talks On Way

SAIPAN (MNS) — The third round of negotiations between the United States and the Mariana Islands Political Status Commission is due to get underway with a public, plenary session at 10 a.m. today at the Royal Taga Hotel.

Sen. Edward Pangelinan, chairman of the Marianas American counterpart, Ambassador F. Haydn Williams, President Nixon's personal representative for Micronesian status negotiations, is also expected to make an opening statement as the talks begin, as will Pangelinan. Subsequent sessions in this round of negotiations will, as in the past, be closed to the public, taking place at the Saipan Municipal Council chambers in Chalan Kanoa.

Pangelinan said the negotiations will last no longer than Wednesday, Dec. 19, in order to give participants, particularly

those from the U.S., time to return to homes and families for Christmas.

The senator and members of his commission returned to Saipan Tuesday from Tinian, where they held a public meeting to inform the people about the ongoing status talks and solicit their views. Similar meetings are planned for Rota and Saipan in coming weeks.

He said turnout for a public meeting on Tinian Monday was good, with nearly every family on the island represented. The meeting lasted until well after midnight.

Asked to characterize the mood, Pangelinan said there was not one single person at the meeting who said, "I don't want the military." But there were many who are concerned about the extent of military use of the island, he said, as well as what he described as a "handful" who are "cautious" about allowing the military to return to Tinian.

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