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'Salii Back On Saipan

SAIPAN (MNS) -- The chairman of the Congress of Micronesia Joint Committee on Future Status, Senator Lazarus Salii of Palau, returned to Saipan this week from California, where he and other members of the joint committee met with Ambassador F. Haydn Williams and other American status negotiators.

The senator said the talks were "very productive, and moved very fast." The meetings took place at Carmel, a resort area south of San Francisco, from April 1 to April 5. Joint committee co-chairman Ekapap Silk of the Marshalls and committee member Senator Bailey Oler of Pohnpei also took part, while on the American side deputy U.S. representative for Micronesian status negotiations James Wilson

joined Ambassador Williams, along with other American officials concerned with certain technical areas of the negotiations.

"We touched upon title four (of the draft compact), which is the title on finance, as well as ranging over the entire list of other issues which still remain to be settled in the negotiations," the senator stated. He declined to be more specific on the talks until he can brief other members of the joint committee later this month.

The twelve member joint committee will travel to Guam April 19 and 20 to meet with members of the Guam political status commission. Senator Salii said he will brief members of the delegation on his talks with Ambassador Williams either just prior to or following the meeting.