

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

OFFICE FOR MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS

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NEW MARIANAS STATUS TALKS BEGIN MAY 15

The fourth round of the ongoing future status negotiations between the United States and the Marianas Political Status Commission will begin May 15th on Saipan, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (Micronesia).

Ambassador F. Haydn Williams, the President's Personal Representative for Micronesian Status Negotiations, will lead the U.S. delegation to the talks. Senator Edward DLG. Pangelinan, Chairman of the Marianas Political Status Commission heads the Marianas Delegation.

The agenda for this session of the talks is expected to include discussion of U.S. land requirements in the Marianas, and a variety of legal and constitutional questions relating to the eventual entry of the Marianas District into the U.S. political family.

The future status talks with the Marianas were first opened in December, 1972, in response to a longstanding request by the people of the Trust Territory of the Pacific's Marianas District for a close association with the United States separate from the rest of the Territory. During the second session of these talks in May, 1973, preliminary agreement was reached on a commonwealth status as the eventual goal for the Marianas District.

In December, 1973, the third session of negotiations produced further agreement in the areas of local self-government, taxation, tariffs and citizenship status.

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