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HONOLULU ADVERTISER

AUG 12 1974

Micronesia pact

WASHINGTON (UPI) — U.S. negotiators have announced a draft compact with Micronesia, giving it free association, or quasi-sovereign status.

The compact, which would give the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands full responsibility over its internal affairs with the United States responsible for international and defense matters, has been submitted to the Micronesian congress, according to the Office for Micronesian Status negotiations here.

The draft, which is subject to further modification, must be approved by the U.S. and Micronesian congresses, plebiscites of the people in the Caroline and Marshall Islands and the United Nations, which assigned the trusteeship to the United States after World War II.

A third district, the Marianas Islands, is negotiating separately with Washington for a permanent commonwealth arrangement with U.S. citizenship.

Micronesians would become U.S. "nationals" rather than "citizens" under the compact being consideration. They would travel freely in the United States and its territories, but could not establish residence there without U.S. Government permission.