

COM Sets Status Discussions With U.S., Guam

SAIPAN (MNS) -- The chairman and co-chairman of the Congress of Micronesia's Joint Committee on Future Status will fly to San Francisco late this month to meet with U.S. Ambassador F. Haydn

Williams, to continue informal discussions in preparation for resumption of formal status negotiations sometime this summer.

Sen. Lazarus Sali made the announcement of the meeting

Tuesday on Saipan, saying that he and Rep. Ekpap Silk plan to meet with Williams for about 10 days beginning the first of April and will then meet with the Ambassador and other American officials later in April.

or early in May in Micronesia. "After this second meeting," said Sali, "we will announce a date for the resumption of the formal status negotiations."

He did not indicate when this might be. The general consensus has been that the talks will resume sometime this summer. The last round of negotiations was held in Washington in November 1973.

Sali also announced that the Joint Committee on Future Status has accepted an invitation from the Guam Political Status Commission to a

meeting in April, to open a dialogue between the two groups on matters of mutual interest.

Sen. Frank Lujan, chairman of the Guam commission, extended the invitation, Sali said, adding that Guam will provide accommodations and transportation for the 12 members of the Micronesian status group.

He said the meeting will be sometime after April 15, to allow time for he and Silk to return from their California meeting with Williams.