

HAWAII CLIPPING SERVICE  
P.O. Box 2033 - Honolulu, Hawaii  
PHONE: 734-8124  
Victoria Custer Elaine Stroup  
HONOLULU STAR BULLETIN

JUN 5 1976

## Micronesian Talks

Round eight of the Micronesian-American future status talks has ended with considerable progress but not quite enough. Final agreement on a draft compact detailing the future relationship of what is now the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands with the United States eluded the negotiators on Saipan. But they did reportedly agree on the terms of American financial support and all but one of the other pending matters.

The financial settlement is reported as \$57 million for each of the first five years of the compact, \$52 million for the next five, and \$47 million for the last five. After 15 years, the Micronesians would be free to dissolve the relationship if they chose. For that reason the arrangement is termed "free association."

Still unresolved are issues related to control over ocean resources and the law of the sea. However, disposal of the funding question eliminates a major obstacle. Hope was voiced that the compact can be completed in time for submission to the special session of the Congress of Micronesia scheduled to start July 19 on Ponape.

Perhaps the talks were helped by the departure of the Marianas District as a separate U.S. commonwealth and the secession threats of two other districts, Palau and the Marshalls.

The chief U.S. negotiator, Franklin Haydn Williams, seems to have cooled the Palauans' enthusiasm for secession, at least temporarily. Before the Saipan talks Williams tried to dissuade the Palauans from seceding, arguing that they could achieve the desired close relationship with the United States through free association in Micronesia.

The House of Chiefs of the Palau Legislature then voted to withdraw a resolution authorizing the Palau Political Status Commission to seek separate status talks with the United States, until a referendum is held on the question.

So both the U.S. and Micronesian sides seem to be trying to keep Micronesia from disintegrating — the Americans by discouraging secessionist overtures and the Micronesians by permitting the status negotiations to move ahead. But whether these efforts will suffice is uncertain.

6-5-76

To: Amb Williams  
Fr Dick Wytterbach

Some good -  
(and accurate!)  
press at last!

Good keeping!  
MVT