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# Talks May Go Separate

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HONOLULU (UPI) — The United States has agreed to continue informal discussions with Micronesian representatives together and separately on the political status of the Pacific island group.

Four days of informal talks between officials from Washington and Micronesia ended Saturday amid a lack of unity among the Micronesian districts on how to proceed.

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Johnson Toribiong, a legislator from the district of Palau, said the United States has seemingly recognized the rights of the individual districts to negotiate

their own future status.

"It appeared that the U.S. indicated it would favor separate negotiations if this expedited the talks," Toribiong said.

U.S. Ambassador Philip Manhard, acting American representative to the talks, said there would be further informal "multilateral and bilateral" talks during the summer.

The Trust Territory of Micronesia is administered by the United States under a 1947 United Nations charter which pledged the United States to prepare the territory for eventual self-government.

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**Inside:**

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