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## Micronesian status talks

### Another Kona round

Hawaii is once again the site of another round of Micronesian status talks, the outcome of which could well determine when termination of the 33-year-old Trust Territory administration takes place.

Representatives from the three Micronesian "entities," Palau, the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia, are meeting with their American counterparts in Kona, the site of a significant round last January.

Then, most of the time was spent on informally agreeing to provisions of the Draft Compact of Free Association.

The concept calls for local control of most internal and foreign affairs matters, with responsibility for defense resting with the United States.

To the United States' disappointment, however, only the Marshalls initialed the document. This time, with a full Palauan negotiating team present, there is at least the hope the FSM and Palau will do the same.

REPORTS FROM Kona indicate most of last week's preliminary discussions were concerned with the so-called "secondary agreements," those provisions which will specify

ary agreements is, in the case of the Marshall Islands, finalizing terms of the U.S. use of Kwajalein atoll as a target area for our long-range missile testing program.

The American desire to firm up these provisions soon was evident in a recent message sent by Deputy Undersecretary of Defense Walter Slocombe to Marshalls President Amata Kabua saying, "... we intend, by what I believe fairly can be called a generous offer, to quiet past claims and ensure future use of the Kwajalein Missile Range free from harassment and the tribulations of frequent renegotiation."

So what develops in Kona this week will have a significant bearing on what happens, or does not happen, in Micronesia in the coming months.

THESE PROTRACTED talks, now 11 years old, have been demanding and frustrating. They may still be sidetracked by changing political currents, either in Micronesia or the United States.

But regardless of what negotiating stances or outside pressures are, one thing remains clear: America's administration of Micronesia has gone on too long, and little good can come