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Micronesia Status Talks Postponed

The United States and Micronesia will resume formal talks late this summer on a new political status for the

Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

The talks previously had been expected to take place this month in Washington.

Meetings were held in Honolulu Friday and Saturday between Ambassador Franklin Haydn Williams and Sen. Lazarus Salii of Palau, who announced the new timetable.

Williams is President Nixon's personal representative for the negotiations. Salii is chairman of the Congress of Micronesia's Joint Committee on Future Status.

They said they agreed to take these steps before the formal discussions resume:

—The United States will study the possibility of early return of public trust lands to Micronesia in consultation with the Congress of Micronesia, the districts and various officials.

—A series of informal meetings will be held to prepare a draft compact of Free Association between the U.S. and Micronesia. The first meeting will be held next month.

Under the free association plan, the Micronesians would manage their own lands and laws while the United States would supervise international affairs. The United States also would be responsible for the military defense of Micronesia.