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# Trust Territory Talks Are Renewed

A new round of negotiations on the future status of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands began

Informal discussions are being conducted at the Makalapa guest house of Adm. Noel Gayler, commander-in-chief, Pacific, by representatives of the U.S. State Department and the Congress of Micronesia.

The American position is represented by Ambassador Franklin Haydn Williams and James M. Wilson; the Micronesian side by Sen. Lazarus Salii and Rep. Ekpap Silk.

THE MAIN problem facing the meeting is the return of public lands by the United States to the districts of the Trust Territory as part of the terms for a "free association" of Micronesia with the United States when the trusteeship is ended.

A bill passed by the Congress of Micronesia providing for the return of the lands was vetoed by High Commissioner Edward E. Johnston.

The Legislature of the Palau District passed a resolution urging suspension of the future status talks until the land question is resolved.

WILSON SAID there is no question about the United States' willingness to return the public lands, only about the manner in which this is to be done.

The negotiators last met in July on Guam and agreed tentatively on the text of a draft compact of free association.