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COMMUNICATION FROM THE MARSHALL ISLANDS NITIJELA CONCERNING THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

(Circulated in accordance with rule 24 of the rules of procedure of the Trusteeship Council)

MARSHALL ISLANDS NITIJELA Twenty-sixth Regular Session, 1979

## A RESOLUTION

To confirm certification of the referendum of 1 March 1979 for ratification of the Constitution of the Marshall Islands.

WHEREAS, District Law 23-32-2, as amended, has provided for the conduct of a constitutional convention and a referendum for the purpose of ratifying or rejecting the constitution adopted by the Constitutional Convention; and

WHEREAS, the Constitutional Convention adopted a constitution for the Marshall Islands on 21 December 1978; and

WHEREAS, the constitution, as adopted by the Constitutional Convention was presented to the electors of the Marshall Islands on 1 March 1979 for their ratification or rejection; and

WHEREAS, a team of United Nations Trusteeship Council observers were present in the Marshall Islands to oversee the campaign before the referendum, the referendum voting process itself, and the post-election ballot count; and

WHEREAS, the Election Commissioner of the Marshall Islands has issued a report concerning the conduct of the referendum of 1 March 1979, and has certified the result of that referendum to the <u>Nitijela</u>; and

WHEREAS, the Election Commissioner certifies that the electors at the referendum of 1 March 1979 have ratified the constitution of the Marshall Islands; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 11 of District Law 23-32-2, as amended, no recounts shall be permitted unless authorized or required by the <u>Nitijela</u>, and the Nitijela is the sole judge of the referendum and its results; now therefore,

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IT IS RESOLVED by the people of the Marshall Islands through their <u>Nitijela</u> in its twenty-sixth regular session, 1979 that,

(1) The <u>Nitijela</u> finds that although some discrepancies have been determined to have occurred during the conduct of the referendum of 1 March 1979, these discrepancies, individually or collectively, were not sufficient to change or place into reasonable question the results of the referendum;

(2) The <u>Nitijela</u> finds that the electors at the referendum of 1 March 1979 voted to ratify the constitution of the Marshall Islands, as adopted by the Marshall Islands Constitutional Convention, by a vote of 5,670 (64.8 per cent) for ratification, and 3,210 (35.2 per cent) against ratification; and

(3) The <u>Nitijela</u> finds no justification for authorizing or requiring a recount of the votes cast at the referendum of 1 March 1979; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that the constitution of the Marshall Islands is ratified, and by its terms shall be effective 1 May 1979; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon adoption, certified copies of this resolution be sent to the United States Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of State, Ambassador Peter R. Rosenblatt, the High Commissioner of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, the Trusteeship Council of the United Nations and the Security Council of the United Nations.

Certified, as adopted, this 23 March 1979.

(<u>Signed</u>) Atlan ANIEN Speaker

Attested: 27 March 1979

(<u>Signed</u>) (Signature illegible) for Bryant Zebedy, Legislative Secretary

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