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COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIRMAN, PEOPLES' COMMITTEE FOR
THE CONSTITUTION, CONCERNING THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE
PACIFIC ISLANDS

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

26 July 1979

President, Trusteeship Council
New York

(The following is a copy of a communication sent to the High Commissioner, Saipan,
from the Chairman of the Peoples Committee for the Constitution.)

The continuing political controversy is still deadlocked despite our attempts to peacefully resolve it in the legislative and judicial branches. As you know, Judge Burnett issued judgement in Civil Action No. 71-79 for defendants yesterday stating that the Legislature may meet in regular session with a quorum consisting of a majority of its members. Our last and only remaining established forum through which this particular approach to resolving this controversy orderly and legally is the executive branch. Bills 1140 and 1142, as well as others passed during the current session, were never the subject of any public hearing. In fact, they were passed with very little floor debates, if any, on their merits. We request and urge your office to recognize the expressed wishes of the people of Palau and to give those wishes some concrete effect by vetoing bills Nos. 1140 and 1142. It is our continuing belief and firm conviction that any claim of neutrality on this question by your office and the Secretary of the Interior amounts to an approval of action by the Legislature to ignore the expressed wishes of people. The result would be a disaster of untold magnitude. Years of political education and development provided by the United States of America to instil in the people respect and belief in a republican form of government would come to an end. You must take a positive step.

Chairman of the Peoples' Committee for the Constitution (Palau)
