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PETITION FROM THE INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
CONCERNING THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

(Circulated in accordance with rule 85, paragraph 1, of
the rules of procedure of the Trusteeship Council)

THE INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
(formerly The International League for the
Rights of Man)

777 United Nations Plaza
New York, N.Y. 10017

5 April 1977

Mr. Guy Scalabre
President of the Trusteeship Council
United Nations
New York, N.Y. 10017

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing in support of the petition from Messrs. Tosiwo Nakayama, President of the Senate, and Bethwel Henry, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Congress of Micronesia, concerning the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. That petition has been circulated as document T/PET.10/109, dated 25 January 1977. It concerns the activities of the United States Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in conducting electronic surveillance of representatives of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands as outlined in an article in The Washington Post of 12 December 1976.

You will recall that on 30 June 1976, the League presented to the Trusteeship Council a petition concerning the Trust Territory (see T/PV.1452 and T/PV.1453). We asked the Council to express its disapproval of the efforts of the Administering Authority to establish a new colonial Territory in the Northern Mariana Islands. We asked the Council to take a firm position in favour of the unity of the Territory. We expressed our suspicion that the United States was engaging in a classic colonial exercise in divide and rule.

Our suspicions seem to have been confirmed. We refer in particular to the comments of Paul C. Warnke quoted towards the end of The Washington Post article which is annexed to the Micronesian petition (T/PET.10/109, enclosure 1): "the reported surveillance was 'completely immoral, overreaching and taking advantage of the other side'. If the purpose was to divide the Micronesians, it apparently succeeded, he said, noting the separate agreement negotiated with the Marianas."

We hope that the Council will carefully consider the Micronesian petition and the enclosure thereto in relation to its consideration both of the Marianas Commonwealth and of the territory-wide negotiations which will presumably be renewed in the near future. Specifically, we endorse the recommendations made in the petition of Messrs. Nakayama and Henry, dated 27 December 1976:

"1. That you, as President of the Council, request ... an opinion of the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs as to the legal implications of the Administering Authority conducting electronic surveillance against Micronesians; whether, indeed, the Administering Authority has violated the provisions of the Trusteeship Agreement;

"2. That the Council be prepared to discuss this issue during its forty-fourth session, and to take a position with regard to past surveillance activities; and

"3. That the Council request the Administering Authority during the forty-fourth session to deliver a policy statement to the Council with regards to its position on surveillance of Micronesians in the future."

We are also anxious that the Council examine at the earliest opportunity the fragmentation now taking place in Micronesia as a direct consequence of United States indulgence of the secessionist movement in the Northern Mariana Islands. It is our understanding that separate status negotiations with the United States have now been asked for by representatives of the Marshall Islands and by representatives of Palau, and that still other island groupings in the Trust Territory are seeking separate political arrangements with the United States. It seems entirely likely that efforts will be made in the foreseeable future to establish additional "unincorporated Territories" or colonies of the United States in Micronesia.

We certainly hope that despite the Council's current membership - namely, the United States, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, France and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (and non-active China) - it will perform its duty under the Charter of the United Nations in order to assure due consideration of these matters. We have addressed a similar petition to the Special Committee on the Situation with Regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

We respectfully request that this communication be circulated to the members of the Trusteeship Council as a United Nations document and look forward to your prompt reply.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) Roger N. BALDWIN
Honorary President

(Signed) Jerome J. SHESTACK
President

(Signed) Roger S. CLARK
Special Consultant

(Signed) José A. CABRANES
Counsel
