



Trusteeship Council

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COMMUNICATION FROM THE SENATE, FIRST OLBIIL ERA KELULAU
(PALAU NATIONAL CONGRESS), CONCERNING THE TRUST
TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

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

The Senate
FIRST OLBIIL ERA KELULAU
REPUBLIC OF PALAU
KOROR, PALAU
96940

24 November 1982

The Honourable Haruo I. Remeliik
President, Republic of Palau
P.O. Box 100, Koror
Republic of Palau 96940

Dear Mr. President:

Recently after the completion of the new COMSAT [Communication Satellite] earth station in the Republic of Palau, we learned that the earth station does not provide for telex communications between Palau and outside points. Further study indicated that the reason telex was not provided for in the COMSAT facility is that Mr. Frank Solomon, an Interior Department official, testified before the United States Congress that the islands of Micronesia did not require telex. We believe the implications of this decision are serious and warrant your immediate attention.

Without a telex system, all of Palau's communications with the outside world are by telephone. These telephone communications are routed through Hawaii. All of these oral communications are subject to being monitored by any person in Hawaii and even from individuals in Saipan. Therefore, in its communications with the outside world, the Republic of Palau has virtually no privacy. The Government of any country, Territory or state through which our communications pass may monitor our communications. We, therefore, have no capacity to keep secret communications which should be kept secret for national security purposes.

A telex system would have solved part of this problem. If such a system was specifically not installed upon the recommendations of officials from the Department of the Interior, the implications of this seem obvious and need not be restated here.

In light of the potential serious nature of this problem, the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs requests that you immediately write to the appropriate individuals in an attempt to have this irresponsible act corrected and to have telex facilities installed as a part of the new communications facility.

Looking forward to your expeditious action on our request, I remain

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Joshua KOSHIBA
Chairman

cc: Pedro Sanjuan, Assistant Secretary for
Territorial and International Affairs
Department of the Interior

Mrs. Janet McCoy, High Commissioner
Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands

Honourable Paul Poudade, President
United Nations Trusteeship Council
