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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 RESOLUTION NO. 25

First Constitutional Special Session 1979

A RESOLUTION

To place the Government of the United States of America on notice of its liability to the people of Bikini Atoll for the damage, injuries and losses caused by the nuclear testing programmes between 1946 and 1958.

WHEREAS, the Government of the United States, for its own security and military power, embarked on a series of nuclear tests in 1946 at Bikini Atoll; and

WHEREAS, the Government of the United States deceptively intimidated and induced the people residing on Bikini Atoll to leave their homes with the assurance that they would be able to return to their atoll after the tests were completed; conveniently not mentioning that the tests would be undertaken over a period of many years, and without mentioning the probable long-term and practically permanent toxic effects that would endanger the health and lives of the residents who were to have returned to their home atoll; and

WHEREAS, since that time, Bikinians were permitted to return to Bikini Atoll, and as a direct result of the negligence of the Government of the United States, some of those who returned to Bikini have been unnecessarily and cruelly exposed to excessive amounts of radiation which are the residual effects of the nuclear tests of 1946-1958; and

WHEREAS, the Government of the United States, in a belated and inadequate effort to prevent further radiation exposure to the Bikini residents has removed them from their home atoll and scattered them throughout the Marshall Islands, displaying little sensitivity for the deep cultural and familial ties that exist between Marshallese and the little coral atolls they call "home"; and

WHEREAS, the residents of Bikini are now, and have been for the past 30 years, the only displaced refugees in the world to have become so, not as a consequence of the violence of war, but rather by the arrogant pursuit of military technology and power by the Government of the United States in pursuit of a desire for nuclear weapons superiority in its struggle with other major Powers of the world; and

WHEREAS, while the Government of the United States quietly beats its breast in symbolic regret, it disregards the needs of the Bikinians for a stable and safe place where they can live and call "home", apparently insensitive to and oblivious of its liability to the people of Bikini on a more practical and material basis; now therefore,

IT IS RESOLVED that the Government of the United States be and hereby is placed on notice that the people of the Marshall Islands, and particularly the people of Bikini, regard the Government of the United States as liable, pursuant to moral law, pursuant to the Trusteeship Agreement, and pursuant to common law principles, for the health, sustenance and welfare of the people of Bikini, and for the destruction of their home land; and therefore, urgently make demand on the Government of the United States to reconcile its liabilities with the people of Bikini, promptly and fully, in a humanitarian and just manner; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be sent to the President of the United States; the President of the United States Senate; the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives; the Trusteeship Council of the United Nations; and the Magistrate of the Kili-Bikini Municipal Council.

Certified, as adopted, on 25 June, 1979.

(Signed) Atlan ANIEN  
Speaker

Attested by: 28 June 1979

(Signed) Bryant S. ZEBEDY  
Clerk

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