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COMMUNICATION FROM MR. SADANG N. SILMAI, SPEAKER,
PALAU LEGISLATURE, CONCERNING THE TRUST TERRITORY
OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

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procedure of the Trusteeship Council)

PALAU LEGISLATURE
P.O. Box 8
Koror, Palau
Western Caroline Islands
96940

17 July 1979

Honourable Kuniwo Nakamura
Honourable John O. Ngiraked
Honourable Itelbang Luii
Honourable Akiko Sugiyama
Honourable Yoich Singeo
Honourable Yasinto Isechal
Honourable George Ngirarsaol
Honourable Emilio Nestor
Honourable Tosiwo Nakamura
Honourable Pablo Kyoshi
Legislators
Koror, Palau 96940

Dear Honourable Legislators:

A copy of your cable 1/ addressed to the High Commissioner of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands regarding the quorum question of the Palau Legislature and your request that the Secretary of the Interior take exception to PL 6-5S-1 and declare official the results of the "referendum" held on 9 July 1979, came across my desk today for my information as that cable purports to have been sent by the Palau Legislature. I am compelled by the members of the Palau

1/ See T/COM.10/L.255.

Legislature and by the responsibilities of my office to write you this letter to clarify the name of the Palau Legislature for the record and to officially disclaim knowledge, consent or endorsement of the use of its name in that communication.

Your use of the name of the Palau Legislature was not only unauthorized, it was a blatant violation of the ethics of your office in that it misrepresented the position of the Palau Legislature. The Legislature consists of two houses and can only act collectively when it acts in accordance with its rules of procedure and law. It is clear that the 10 of you cannot, acting in concert, legally use the name of the Legislature as it is more than clear that you cannot even commit the name of the Legislature even if you apply the requirement of a simple majority rule, a position which you so adamantly abhor.

With respect to the contents of your cable, the Palau Legislature's position is clear. Your request that the High Commissioner refrain from approving any petition by the Legislature to amend its Charter to lower the quorum requirement to a simple majority is unnecessary and moot as the terms of Secretarial Order 2918 made applicable to the Palau Legislature by virtue of Secretarial Order 3027 have in effect accomplished that purpose. Your request that the Secretary of the Interior declare the results of the "referendum" official and hence pre-empt the Palau Legislature from carrying out its duties as the sole judge of the referendum is at best no more than an undisguised attempt on your part to subvert the provision of PL 6-5S-1 which you have heretofore so faithfully upheld, but which has been effectively nullified by the application of PL 6-8-14 which was Bill No. 1140, and would in effect amount to your hypocrisy regarding the fulfilment of said public law.

I am sending a copy of this letter to all concerned to clarify the record and in addition I hereby most respectfully direct you to refrain from further using the name of this Legislature to advance your personal political interests which contradict the provisions of law and the well-expressed position of this Legislature.

Your co-operation shall be most highly appreciated.

Sincerely,

(Signed) Sadang N. SILMAI
Speaker

cc: High Commissioner, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands
President, United Nations Trusteeship Council, New York
Director, Office of Territorial Affairs, Department of the Interior
Ambassador Peter R. Rosenblatt
District Administrator, Palau
