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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMUNICATION FROM MR. TOSIWO NAKAMURA AND OTHER MEMBERS OF
THE PALAU LEGISLATURE CONCERNING THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE
PACIFIC ISLANDS

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

19 July 1979

The Honourable Sadang N. Silmai
Speaker, House of Elected Members
Palau Legislature
Koror, Palau 96940

Dear Mr. Speaker:

We are compelled, at the risk of creating further confusion on your part, to respond to your letter of 17 July 1979, 1/ addressed to each of us, the undersigned legislators.

At the outset, we wish to express our disappointment that you, as Speaker of the Palau Legislature, would stoop so low as to complain at great length about the use of the name of the Palau Legislature by a group of legislators as a return address in a cable. 2/ Surely your letter was not an attempt to silence us from speaking on our own behalf and on behalf of over 4,200 voters of Palau who do not share your sentiments on the recently ratified Constitution. A legislator has the right to use the name of Palau Legislature as a return address in his official correspondence, including cables, and you as a Speaker ought to know better. The reference to Palau Legislature was strictly for our return address, a right and a privilege which we, as individual legislators, have for as long as our terms of office remain in effect. If you read carefully the contents of our cable, it should have become clear to you, as it was to the WALU TV reporter, that the positions stated in that cable were ours, not of the Legislature.

Our respective positions regarding each issue stated in your letter and in our cable are clear and need not be further elaborated herein; further, Civil

1/ See T/COM.10/L.259.

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

Action No. 71-79, scheduled for hearing tomorrow at 2 p.m. will eventually resolve these matters.

Although we had planned not to respond to your letter as our cable was quite clear, we are nevertheless forced to do so in order to clarify whatever confusion your letter may have created in the minds of the public. We are sending copies of this letter to those who received copies of your letter not because we believe that your letter confused them, but because it is a matter of courtesy and respect.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed by the following persons)

Tosiwo NAKAMURA

Itelbang LUII

Yoich SINGEO

Yasinto ISECHAL

Emilio NESTOR

John O. NGIRAKED

Akiko SUGIYAMA

Kuniwo NAKAMURA

Pablo KYOSHI

George NGIRARSAOL

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
WALU-TV, Koror, Palau
WSZB Radio Station
