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COMMUNICATION FROM THE HOUSE OF ELECTED MEMBERS, 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)

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

29 August 1979

Madame President Sheila Harden  
United Nations Trusteeship Council  
United Nations, N.Y. 10017

Madame President:

Transmitted herewith is a certified copy of House of Elected Members joint resolution No. 1064 which was adopted by both houses of the Sixth Palau Legislature, eighth regular session.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Simeon SKILANG  
Assistant Secretary  
House of Elected Members

Enclosure

80-01809

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SIXTH PALAU LEGISLATURE

Eighth Regular Session, August 1979

HEM RESOLUTION NO. 1064

A JOINT RESOLUTION

Relative to approving the draft Palau constitution as adopted by the Constitutional Convention and revised by the Palau Constitutional Drafting Commission.

WHEREAS, Public Law 6-58-1 established a Constitutional Convention to draft a constitution for Palau which made allowance for the political status of Free Association; and

WHEREAS, the Constitutional Convention failed to carry out its mandate in that incompatibilities existed between the draft Palau constitution and the political status of free association; and

WHEREAS, on 30 April 1979, Ambassador Peter R. Rosenblatt, the personal representative of the President of the United States to the Micronesian Status Negotiations announced to the people of Palau that the draft Palau constitution was inconsistent with the political status of free association and that the United States could not, therefore, enter into a compact of free association; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 6-8-14 repealed the authorization for conducting the referendum of 9 July 1979; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 6-8-18 provided for the creation of the Palau Constitutional Drafting Commission to make revisions in the draft Palau constitution to assure its compatibility with the political status of free association; and

WHEREAS, the Palau Constitutional Drafting Commission has ably carried out its mandate and has submitted the revised constitution which leaves intact the governmental structure established by the Constitutional Convention while making indispensable changes which accommodate the political status of free association; and

WHEREAS, the revisions made by the Palau Constitutional Drafting Commission retain and strengthen the sovereign rights of Palau; and

WHEREAS, the revised draft constitution maintains Palau as a nuclear-free zone and further strengthens the protection previously provided in the draft Palau constitution; and

WHEREAS, the revised Palau constitution is responsive to the requests of the many Palauans living in Guam and other places outside the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands in that it recognizes their birthright to become citizens of Palau; now therefore,

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BE IT RESOLVED by the Sixth Palau Legislature, eighth regular session, House of Elected Members, House of Chiefs concurring, that the draft Palau constitution as adopted by the Constitutional Convention and revised by the Palau Constitutional Drafting Commission be and it hereby is accepted and approved; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Palau Constitutional Drafting Commission is hereby respectfully commended for the excellent work which it has performed in carrying out its mandate for the people of Palau; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this joint resolution be transmitted to the Honorable Bonifacio Basilius, Chairman of the Palau Constitutional Drafting Commission, the District Administrator, the High Commissioner of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Ambassador Peter R. Rosenblatt, the Honorable Cyrus Vance, Secretary of State, the Honorable Cecil D. Andrus, Secretary of the Interior, and Madame President Sheila Marden of the United Nations Trusteeship Council.

ADOPTED: 23 August 1979

(Signed) Sadang N. SILMAI  
Speaker

ATTESTED:

(Signed) Simeon SKILANG  
Assistant Secretary

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