

UNITED NATIONS
TRUSTEESHIP
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

T/PET.10/365
14 March 1986

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

MAR 25 1986

PETITION FROM MS. BONNIE ROBINSON CONCERNING THE TRUST TERRITORY
OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

(Circulated in accordance with rule 85, paragraph 1, of the
rules of procedure of the Trusteeship Council)

3028 Orillia Street
Victoria, B.C.
Canada V9A 1Y8

11 February 1986

The President
Trusteeship Council
United Nations
New York, N.Y. 10017

Dear Sir,

I would like to inquire about Belau's upcoming referendum. Surely the United Nations is sending official observers to Belau for this referendum. I have been told you may not. The issue here is that the people of Belau want a nuclear-free Constitution while the Americans want to use some of their land for military (including nuclear) bases. There is a fundamental conflict here. How many times must these people show their desire for a nuclear-free country?! Five referendums have already confirmed their desire for a nuclear-free Constitution. Do they need a sixth? What will be proven? Is it not time for the United Nations to step in, observe the referendum and declare it legal if they find it so? Should the United States of America be allowed continually to force these people to the polls to reaffirm their position? The only reason I can see for these actions is the Americans' greed for one third of Belau to use militarily. Is Belau not still subject to the Trusteeship Treaty [Trusteeship Agreement 1/] of 1947? If so, then the United States should be trying to develop the country and allow it sovereignty - not make it more dependent. We must also watch carefully that the United States doesn't economically blackmail Belau into accepting the compact. If the United States withdrew a chunk of Belau's budget they would be somewhat crippled. In this way, Belau could be forced to accept in order to gain rent funds from the United States to support its economy.

This misuse of nations, including those far away in the South Pacific, is an important issue. Please send official United Nations observers to support Belau in this sixth (and hopefully last) referendum.

Yours in peace,

(Signed) Bonnie ROBINSON

cc: Stephen Lewis

Notes

1/ Trusteeship Agreement for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands
(United Nations publication, Sales No. 1957.VI.A.1).
