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PETITION FROM MR. MARK DARLEDGE CONCERNING THE TRUST
TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

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United Nations
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Dear Sirs,

I am writing to express my profound disapproval of the attempts by the United States of America to bypass the non-nuclear Constitution of Belau. Elements of the proposed new Compact clearly violate this Constitution (particularly the section referring to transit rights for "hazardous" substances), and the 75 per cent vote required to override the Constitution was not achieved in the referendum of 21 February 1986.

Ever since 1947, the United Nations trusteeship of Micronesia has been farcical, the 66 nuclear tests carried out there hardly being in the interests of the inhabitants. However, for the United Nations to abandon all control of military activity to the whims of the United States would be a catastrophe. The inhabitants of Belau are a profoundly non-violent people, innocently exploited by a violent world. For centuries their lands have been occupied by greedy military powers. Now they are in the hands of the United Nations, an organization designed to maintain world peace. If the United Nations has any pretence of fulfilling its Charter, it must guarantee the rights of the Belauans to a peaceful existence, free of American militarism.

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English

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I most strongly urge the United Nations Trusteeship Council to uphold Belau's non-nuclear Constitution and reject the Compact.

(Signed) Mark DARLEDGE
