



UNITED NATIONS
TRUSTEESHIP
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

T/PET.10/460
27 May 1986

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

PETITION FROM MR. B. MACKENZIE 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)

35 Eglantine Road
London SW18 2DE
England

LIBRARY

JUN 11 1986

13 May 1986

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

U.N. COLLECTION

Dear Sirs,

I am writing to express my concern at the attempts of the United States administration to override the true interests and rights of the people of Palau, in the Pacific Ocean.

Financial guarantees of several million dollars per annum for the next 15 years, plus a long-term investment fund, have been used to sway the Palaun people's constitutionally expressed desire to remain nuclear-free. In addition to the granting of harbour rights to the United States Navy, the Palaun nation also loses considerable rights of land use, with much of the land being turned over for United States military purposes. Additionally, it would seem that there is no right of rescission of the Compact by the Palaun Government without the prior agreement of the United States Government.

Any change to the 1979 Palau Constitution (which bans nuclear-armed ships and aircraft from Palaun Territory) requires a 75 per cent majority in both houses of Government, as well as a 75 per cent majority in a public referendum. The United States has consistently attempted to overthrow this nuclear-free provision via a series of referendums on the so-called Compact of Free Association which it wishes to impose on the islanders.

The latest, held on 21 February, promised non-use or storage of nuclear weapons on Palau, and also promised that Palau would not ask for confirmation or denial of the presence or absence of such weapons on its ships and aircraft. This was approved by 72 per cent of the Palaun electorate (due solely to the inducements mentioned above).

Such blatant attempts to interfere with the constitutionally declared rights of the indigenous population is surely in direct contradiction with the oft-declared United States concern for freedom and full human rights.

I understand that the Council will be reviewing the 21 February referendum later this month. I would urge you most strongly to reconsider its validity, and to use whatever influence is within your grasp to bring about such amendments as are necessary to ensure that the people of Palau are respected in their desire to remain nuclear-free, as well as to be free to pursue self-determination, without pressure or undue interference from a United States administration which is prepared once again to subvert the wishes of a free people to the wider aims of United States foreign policy.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) B. MACKENZIE
