

UNITED NATIONS TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

T/PET.10/476
6 November 1986

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

PETITION FROM MR. RICHARD ENG 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)

11 Coso Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94110

12 August 1986

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

Dear Sir,

Because of the deteriorating conditions on Ebeye, an island in Kwajalein atoll in the Marshall Islands, I respectfully request the Trusteeship Council to send a special visiting mission for the following reasons:

(1) Quoting Senator Ataji Balos of Kwajalein, "As of 8 April 1986, we have 29 confirmed cases of typhoid" (Marchall Islands Journal, 18 April 1986). There is also an ongoing syphilis epidemic there and rampant malnutrition among young children in Ebeye.

(2) On 10 April 1986, the Republic of the Marshalls Cabinet approved an eminent domain action against the Kwajalein landowners. "The Cabinet determined that activities conducted by the United States and the Republic of the Marshall Islands constitute a public use". I cannot see how the testing of MX missiles and ABM systems on Kwajalein Missile Range can be equated with "public use". (Above quote from the Marshall Islands Journal, 2 May 1986).

(3) On 22 April 1986, "more than 130 people who have been living in protest camps on Kwajalein Island and mid-atoll corridor islands since February were forcibly removed by the Republic of the Marshalls police" (Marshall Islands Journal, 25 April 1986).

(4) On 23 July 1986, the Kwajaelin Atoll Corporation was assessed fines of nearly \$1 million by the Republic of the Marshalls and the Administering Authority (Marshall Islands Journal, 25 July 1986). I would like to quote a United States Congressman, John Seiberling, on a similar situation in August 1982 (on "Operation Homecoming"):

"I think the actions of the military out there are hardly becoming of a nation that is a great Power. Here we have a bunch of people who [are] our wards ... We're occupying their land and we're denying them the right to peacefully assemble and petition for redress of grievances that our Constitution guarantees to our own citizens. And yet we're in their country. I think it's a pretty sad spectacle".

Given the singular importance of land for Pacific islanders, all of the above constitute a violation of article 6 of the Trusteeship Agreement. 1/

Sincerely,

(Signed) Richard ENG

Notes

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