



UNITED NATIONS  
TRUSTEESHIP  
COUNCIL



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PETITION FROM MR. ANDREW WELLS 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)

P.O. Box 119  
North Hobart  
Tasmania 7002  
Australia

11 November 1986

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

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you to express my concern at the way democracy has been undermined in Belau and at how the Belauan people's wishes have been continually subordinated to the interests of the United States military.

In 1979, the Belauan people voted for a constitution that bans all nuclear activities in the islands and that requires a 75 per cent majority to amend the anti-nuclear clauses.

So far six referendums have been held, with the result moving closer to 75 per cent each time, in response to heavy United States pressure. The latest vote in February 1986 resulted in a 72 per cent vote, after a United States-sponsored \$400,000 political education campaign before the plebiscite, that was neither "fair nor impartial".

I understand the importance of Belau to United States military strategic interests, but do not believe that this gives the United States of America the right to manipulate a democratic process in its interests.

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English

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I call upon the Trusteeship Council to require that the United States live up to the democratic standards it professes, and cease manipulating the Belauan political process.

In peace,

(Signed) Andrew WELLS

cc: United States Embassy, Australia  
Belau Pacific Centre

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