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PETITION FROM MS. SUSAN QUASS, RESOURCE COORDINATOR FOR ASIA AND
PACIFIC, UNITED NATIONS METHODIST OFFICE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS,
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)

United Methodist Office
for the United Nations
777 United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017-3585

19 November 1986

The President
Trusteeship Council
United Nations
New York, NY 10017

Dear Mr. President:

As the Trusteeship Council considers the dispatch of a mission to observe the Palau plebiscite, we urge that the mandate for the observer mission specifically include:

- (a) That the mission be charged with reporting the written rules and actual procedures for the conduct of the plebiscite, including: (a) time constraints for absentee voting; (b) conduct of polling places outside Palau; and (c) security measures for the transport of ballots;
- (b) That at least part of the mission be dispatched to observe the conduct of the plebiscite and the transfer of ballots cast outside Palau;
- (c) That the mission be charged to observe and report on the tabulation of all ballots, including all absentee ballots and ballots cast in polling places outside of Palau, and that the report on the tabulation process in Palau specifically include an accounting of all existing ballots printed, both those cast and those remaining blank;

- (d) That the mission be charged with reporting on whether Palauan voters are informed about the document on which they are voting including:
- (i) That the Compact is the exact same text that was rejected in the February 1986 plebiscite, and that it requires 75 per cent of the votes cast for approval;
 - (ii) That the Palau Supreme Court ruling of 17 September 1986 expressly stated that this Compact requires a separate ballot question to approve the nuclear provisions, and that if the land use provisions of this Compact are exercised, that a "constitutional crisis" could be the result;
 - (iii) That the United States Congress, by its own legislation, can only approve this Compact after Palauan voters have done so, and that the Congress expressly stated that Palau's 200-mile limit with respect to migratory species shall not be observed by the United States under this Compact;
- (e) That the mission be charged with interpreting to the voters of Palau:
- (i) The meaning of the 1986 Trusteeship Council resolution supporting Trusteeship termination, 1/ and the relation of that resolution to the Trusteeship Council's intention to promote the good of Palau under the terms of the Trusteeship Agreement 2/ until the United Nations properly terminates the Trusteeship Agreement;
 - (ii) The view of Trusteeship Council concerning the action of the Administering Authority to terminate the Trusteeship Agreement for other peoples of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands;
- (f) That the mission be charged to report on the level of confidence of Palauan voters in their present status under the Trusteeship Agreement and their perceptions of the intention of the Administering Authority and the United Nations to promote their well-being as Trusteeship citizens. Does their confidence or lack of confidence affect the Palauans' perception of their options and freedom of choice in the present plebiscite?

We urge the Council to dispatch a mission to observe the Palau plebiscite and to include in the mission's mandate the above concerns.

Sincerely,

Susan QUASS
Resource Coordinator for
Asia and Pacific

Notes

1/ T/RES/2183 (LIII).

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