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PETITION FROM MS. MARION COLE FOR BRAINTREE AND DISTRICT UNITED  
NATIONS INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PEACE GROUP 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)

19 Bois Hall Gardens  
Halstead, Essex CO9 2HX  
England

5 May 1987

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

Dear Mr. Abebe,

Thank you for your letter of 3 February and the enclosure about the sending of a mission to observe the plebiscite. We understand this seventh vote upheld the nuclear-free Constitution. We would appreciate your sending us a copy of the United Nations observers' report.

We have been told that another international team of observers was unhappy about several points in the way this vote was taken. These include: improper pressure on civil service workers; unfair use of government resources; missing ballot boxes; dubious ballot-box security; damaged ballot box; arbitrary counting procedures; unlawful ballot openings; unsatisfactory arrangements at some polling places; insecure ballot-box transports.

We have also heard that there is to be another referendum. If this is so, we think it unnecessarily hasty. To be fair, it would seem to us that the people of Palau need further time to fully understand the options.

The original trusteeship administered by the United States was to help the various groups of islands to reach a point of economic independence. The United States seems to have done the opposite. Palau has many natural potentials for

self-sufficiency and trade. President Reagan is said to have a dream of a nuclear-free world. Upholding Palau's nuclear-free Constitution would be a very big step in that direction. That would be an achievement of which the United States could be proud.

The group has asked me to thank you for your co-operation and time in replying to our letters.

With every good wish,

Sincerely,

(Signed) Marion COLE  
for Braintree and  
District United Nations  
International Year  
of Peace Group

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