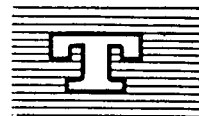


JUN 27 1980



UNITED NATIONS
TRUSTEESHIP
COUNCIL

UN/SA COLLECTION



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PETITION FROM MARY BAKER AND MARIE O'DONOGHUE, CHRISTCHURCH
CATHOLIC COMMISSION FOR JUSTICE AND DEVELOPMENT, CONCERNING
THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

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Christchurch Catholic
COMMISSION FOR JUSTICE AND DEVELOPMENT
(incorporating Catholic Overseas Aid)

10 June 1980

The Christchurch Catholic Commission for Justice and Development is deeply committed to the promotion of peace.

The Catholic Church has taught, with increasing urgency in recent years, that global war and preparation for war is immoral. In the address of Pope Paul VI to the United Nations in 1965, 1/ he entreated: "... Let the weapons fall from your hands". He also said: "Disarm in order to develop". "When so many people are hungry, when so many families suffer from destitution ... every armaments race becomes an intolerable scandal. We are conscious of our duty to denounce it".

We wish to reaffirm these principles of our Church and apply them to the situation of Palau. We therefore endorse the resolution proposed at the Nuclear Free Pacific Conference in Hawaii, May 1980, as follows:

"We, delegates to the Nuclear Free Pacific Conference, meeting in Hawaii, 10-18 May 1980, who come from many Pacific islands and bordering countries, express our full support for the people of Palau, who voted overwhelmingly (92 per cent) on 9 July 1979, for a constitution which protects and conserves their land for use by their own people, and ensures that Palau will not be turned into a foreign military base.

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twentieth Session, Plenary Meetings, vol. I, 1347th meeting, paras. 15-49.

"We demand that the United States Government recognize the right of the Palauan people to independence, to control their land and their lives, and that it cease its attempts to interfere with the Palauan peoples' right to self-determination.

"We express our strong concern about the evidence made available to us, that the United States Government is planning to annex 33,000 acres of land on Palau for United States military purposes, free of rent and other charges."

We urge you, in the name of peace, to give this resolution very serious consideration.

We make a plea to you for justice for the people of Palau.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) Mary BAKER

(Signed) Marie O'DONOGHUE

For the Peace Committee,
Christchurch Catholic
Commission for Justice
and Development
