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PETITION FROM MR. RON ARNOLD, PRESIDENT, AND MS. BEVERLEY SYMONS,  
SECRETARY, ASSOCIATION FOR INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION AND  
DISARMAMENT (NSW), 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)

ASSOCIATION FOR INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION AND DISARMAMENT (NSW)

P.O. Box A243  
Sydney South, N.S.W., 2000  
Australia  
18 June 1980

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

Dear Sir,

Our association expresses its full support for the people of Palau, who have overwhelmingly expressed their desire for a constitution providing jurisdiction and sovereignty over the islands of Palau and the waters to 200 nautical miles, and prohibiting the testing, storage and production of nuclear materials.

We recognize the Palauan people's wishes for such a nuclear-free constitution, as shown by the 92 per cent vote in favour at the referendum held 9 July, 1979 and by the subsequent referendum results of 23 October 1979.

We believe the Government of the United States of America should recognize the right of the people of Palau to independence and to control of their land and their lives, free of a foreign military or nuclear presence, and should cease its attempts to interfere with the people's right to self-determination.

We express our strong concern about evidence drawn to our attention that the United States Government wishes to annex 33,000 acres of land on Palau for United States military purposes, free of rent and other charges.

Our association, whose members include many leading trade union and other community organizations and members of the federal and NSW /New South Wales/ parliaments, fully supports the right of the Palaun people to again express their desire for their own constitution, free of outside interference, at the referendum to be held on 9 July next.

We would appreciate receiving your reply to our views.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) Ron ARNOLD  
President

(Signed) Beverley SYMONS  
Secretary

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