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PETITION FROM MR. AND MRS. JOHN FALLDING 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)

69 Cobran Road
Cheltenham, NSW, 2119
Australia

25 June 1980

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

Dear Sir/Madam,

The following letter was sent to officials concerned with the island of Palau, Caroline Islands. We feel that the United Nations has a duty to protect the rights of the people of Palau. We trust that you are doing whatever you can to support them.

"It is with deep concern that we read about the plans of your government for the island of Palau in the Caroline Islands.

"According to our information the majority of the inhabitants of the island had ratified their constitution on 9 July 1979 with 92 per cent in favour. This included: (a) a ban on storage in Palau of nuclear weapons; (b) nuclear wastes and other deadly weapons of war; as well as (c) stringent controls on acquisition of lands for military bases. The United States of America opposed these provisions during the convention. Later, the Legislature established a commission to draw up a revised constitution, which deleted nuclear-free clauses.

"A referendum on the second revised constitution was defeated by a 69 per cent vote. We have learned that another referendum on the original nuclear-free constitution is to be held on 9 July 1980, and we urge you to honour and respect and not influence in any way the wishes of the people of Palau and not force them in any way to follow United States plans. The United States, according to its own Constitution, supports the United Nations

Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which also applies to small nations, which obviously are less powerful politically and financially. We can understand that it would be very useful for the United States to have a base there as soon as Palau becomes independent, but to obtain this goal under pressure is unworthy of United States principles. Therefore we urge you with great concern to accept the decisions of the people of Palau who have shown so far that they do not wish to be a dumping ground for atomic waste, nor a base for nuclear weapons. Surely, the United States has plenty of space within its own territory if it considers nuclear waste and weapons safe.

"We beg you to do your utmost to support the wishes of the people of Palau.

"Yours sincerely

"(Signed) John and Vreui FALLDING"

- cc. Department of the Interior, United States Government, Washington D. C.
Adrian P. Winkel, High Commissioner of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Saipan, Mariana Islands.
Ambassador Peter R. Rosenblatt, Office of Micronesian Status Negotiations, Washington D. C.
Tosiwo Nakamura, Palau Legislature, Palau Islands, 96940
Kim B. Batcheller, Acting District Administrator, Koro Palace, Western Caroline Islands, 96940
Congressman Philip Burton, United States Congress, Washington D. C.
