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PETITION FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE, NON-OFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AND MEMBERS OF THE FONO OF FAIPULE OF THE TERRITORY OF WESTERN SAMOA CONCERNING WESTERN SAMOA

(Circulated in accordance with rule 85 of the rules of procedure for the Trusteeship Council)

Note by the Secretariat: This communication was transmitted to the Secretary-General by the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in the Pacific.

PETITION

FROM: Members of the Council of State, Non-Official Members of the Executive Council and Legislative Assembly and Members of the Fono of Faipule of the Territory of Western Samoa.

TO: The Secretary-General of the United Nations
New York
United States of America.

HYDROGEN BOMB TESTS IN PACIFIC

Sir,

We the undersigned being the traditional and constitutional representatives of the people of the Territory of Western Samoa present our greetings and respects and humbly seek the aid of the United Nations for urgent consideration to be given to the matter which we now submit.

Your Petitioners at a Joint Meeting with the United Nations Visiting Mission submitted a resolution in the following terms:

"That the Hon. Fautua, Members of the Council of State, Non-Official Members of the Executive Council and Legislative Assembly and the Fono of Faipule, the representatives of the people of Western Samoa, express

grave concern that recent Press Reports have stated that a Hydrogen Bomb is to be exploded sometime next year at Christmas Island, which is situated approximately 1,350 miles North East of Western Samoa."

WE HUMBLY PRAY THAT you will cause this resolution to be considered by the proper Authorities of the United Nations and that in deliberating thereon reference will be made to the verbatim record of the proceedings of the meeting with the Visiting Mission

AND WE FURTHER HUMBLY PRAY THAT the United Nations will take such action as will ensure that no danger or harm will result to the people of Western Samoa.

A N D we the undersigned will continue to pray that all your efforts will be successful.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE

1. Tupua Tamasese (Signed) TUPUA TAMASESE
2. Malietoa Tanumafili II (Signed) MALIETOA TANUMAFILI II

NON-OFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

1. J. B. Fonoti (Signed) J. B. FONOTI
2. Leutele Te'o (Signed) LEUTELE TE'O
3. P. Plowman (Signed) P. PLOWMAN
4. Tualaualelei M (Signed) TUALAUULELEI M

NON-OFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. Alipia T (Signed) ALIPIA T
2. G. F. D. Betham (Signed) G. F. D. BETHAM
3. Gatoloai P. (Signed) GATOLOAI P
4. A. M. Gurau (Signed) A. M. GURAU
5. Lealalauloto Aso (Signed) LEALALIAULOTO ASO
6. Lei'ataua (Signed) LEI'ATAUA
7. H. W. MOORS (Signed) H. W. MOORS
8. P. L. M. Morgan (Signed) P. L. M. MORGAN
9. Talamaivao V (Signed) TALAMAIVAO V
10. Tofaeono M (Signed) TOFAEONO M
11. To'omato L (absent)
12. Tufuga Fatu (Signed) TUFUGA FATU
13. Tu'u L (Signed) TU'U L

and the 41 members of the Fono of Faipule

EXTRACT FROM THE PROCEEDINGS OF JOINT SESSION OF
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AND FONO OF FAIPULE WITH
VISITING MISSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS HELD ON
MONDAY, 7TH MAY 1956 AT 9 A.M.

HON. TUALAULELEI: Hon. Chairman, Hon. Members of the Visiting Mission with due respect I would like to say that before you are the resolutions as passed by the Hon. Fautua in a Joint Session with the two Fonos as resolution present this morning are as follows:-

"HYDROGEN BOMB TESTS:

That the Hon. Fautua, Members of the Council of State, Non-Official Members of the Executive Council and Legislative Assembly and the Fono of Faipule the representatives of the people of Western Samoa express grave concern that recent Press Reports have stated that a Hydrogen Bomb is to be exploded sometime next year at Christmas Island, which is situated approximately 1,350 miles North East of Western Samoa."

I would like to add a further thought on this matter. The concentration which is given by the Big Powers today of experimenting on these powerful bombs I would like to say that it is not the intention of the people of Samoa to interfere with the intended experiments, but because of previous tests of these various bombs some rather sorrowful effects had been witnessed and, therefore, the people of Western Samoa as we have stated is gravely concerned about these tests. We were also given to understand through the press that the bomb to be tested in this instance would be one of the most powerful and although we understand that precautions have been taken for the safety of the people close to testing area that may be affected by Great Britain or the Nation holding the test at Christmas Islands but that does not mean that we are safe and we are very worried because no one knows of what the results might be. The distance of 1,350 miles between Samoa and Christmas Islands is not very great when considering the fact that the northeast trade winds is Samoa's prevailing winds. Therefore we submit this resolution before you Hon. Gentlemen of the United Nations Visiting Mission not only as petition but as a prayer that the United Nations would see fit to interfere that such a test would not be taken in that locality. A petition would also be made in writing and signed by the Hon. Fautua and all the Members of this Joint Fonos so that your Mission would convey it to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. In case this petition might arrive late than the time set for the carrying out of this test I would request your Mission that our Petition be conveyed by telegram to your headquarters immediately.

SIR JOHN MACPHERSON: I would say first that we have taken note of the resolution and the concern felt by the representatives of the people of Western Samoa for the safety of her land and her people. For our part we have no information apart from the information that you yourselves have, but we shall take steps to report the matter to our Headquarters. We have also given our consideration to the question of timing. It might be of interest to the members to know that when we were visiting the United States Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and when we were in the Marshall Islands we had a meeting with the Hold-Over Committee of the Marshall Islands Congress. At that meeting they said to us that two years before they had presented a petition asking in the first place that these atomic experiments be not carried out in that locality.

HON. P. PLOWMAN: Sir I would like to add to some of the remarks by the Hon. Tualaulelei with reference to this bomb being exploded and that there should be some assurance that there will be no tidal wave from this bomb. We know that tidal waves are caused by under-water explosions and in 1952 we experienced a small tidal wave here and I checked with the Observatory Office this morning and I understand when the water receded from the harbour our jetty had no water underneath it, when the back-wash came in the water came right up past the Customs House, it was estimated to be 10 to 12' high. The Observatory advised that this was caused from the Russian occupied Territories north of Japan, that it went thousands of miles through Islands and through other smaller Islands to reach a height of 12' here in Samoa.

Sir we are only 1,350 miles in a direct line from Christmas Islands and we have also an uninterrupted sea-way between here and Christmas Island. Sir also only 900 miles from Christmas Island we have the Tokelau Group who strangely enough did not experience the 1952 Tidal wave and those Islands are only 7 to 8' above sea level.

There has been some concern shown in New Zealand about the results of this Hydrogen bomb being exploded and the experts have assured New Zealand and Suva that there will be no effects felt or any danger to New Zealand but they have not said that there would be any danger to Samoa. I think that we should have some assurance from the experts if the Hydrogen Bomb is exploded that there will be no tidal wave effect in our Territory.

HON. A. M. GURAU: Mr. Chairman I want to add some additional remarks to the remarks of the previous speakers. It is true that the test is to take place next year, but according to the Press Reports preparations for the test are to start this month May 1956. On Sunday I had occasion to listen to a radio broadcast which stated that the Japanese town of Hiroshima which was hit by an atom bomb at a later stage of the war has sent an urgent appeal to President Eisenhower of the United States to stop the test which is to be held at an atoll in the Marshall Islands now. Furthermore reports that an international investigation is to be started by various Governments to find out the real effects and spread of the so-called fall-out from Hydrogen and atomic bombs and the effect not only on the health of the people but also on the fisheries round the Islands on which most of the Island people depend very much for their living. It has been stated that the Hydrogen bomb is much more powerful than the atomic bomb which was exploded previously. It also seems that the scientists themselves are quite uncertain about the possible effects of the Hydrogen bomb. In view of these facts I consider that the concern expressed by the representatives of the Samoan people is fully justified and we confidently place our representations in your hands to submit them to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for full consideration.
