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COMMUNICATION FROM THE NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
CONCERNING THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

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procedure of the Trusteeship Council)

THE SENATE
SECOND NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
P.O. Box 129
Saipan, CM 96950

8 August 1980

The Honourable Sheila Harden
President
United Nations Trusteeship Council
United Nations
New York, New York 10017

Dear President Harden:

I transmit herewith a certified copy of Senate joint resolution No. 2-15, "A Senate Joint Resolution respectfully urging the Governments of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, Palau and other Pacific Island Governments not to enter into further fisheries negotiations with Japan until that government has abandoned plans to dump nuclear waste in the Pacific Ocean near the Mariana Islands.", adopted by the Senate and the House of Representatives, Second Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, second regular session, 1980.

Respectfully,

(Signed) Juan TEREGEYO
Senate Clerk

Enclosure

80-23863

/...

SECOND NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION, 1980

SENATE JOINT
RESOLUTION NO. 2-15

A SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

Respectfully urging the Governments of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, Palau and other Pacific Island Governments not to enter into further fisheries negotiations with Japan until that Government has abandoned plans to dump nuclear waste in the Pacific Ocean near the Mariana Islands.

WHEREAS, the Government of Japan has announced plans to dump up to 10,000 barrels of low-level nuclear waste on an experimental basis in the Pacific Ocean about 500 miles north of the Northern Mariana Islands; and

WHEREAS, the Government of Japan has indicated that if the initial experimental dumping is successful, the massive dumping of up to several hundred thousand drums of nuclear waste may begin soon thereafter; and

WHEREAS, all of the Pacific Islands governments in the region, including the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands and Palau, have formally protested such plans to the United Nations and the Governments of Japan and the United States of America; 1/ and

WHEREAS, a study performed in 1976 by the United States Environmental Protection Agency regarding the dangers of storing radioactive wastes on the ocean floor revealed drums that had deteriorated to an extent that plutonium was detected at the dumping site; and

WHEREAS, tiny sea organisms that may become contaminated by nuclear waste may be eaten by fish and other sea life, including tuna and other migratory fish, which in turn could be eaten by surface animals thousands of miles away from the proposed dumping site, including man; and

WHEREAS, in 1979 a United States Government Interagency Task Force informed the President of the United States that even minimal doses of radiation may create some risk of cancer or other injury; and

WHEREAS, recent news reports reveal that radioactive waste materials from a spill at a nuclear storage site on the mainland of the United States at Hanford, Washington, in 1975, was recently detected in Japanese waters; and

WHEREAS, such revelations further emphasize the potentially extreme dangers relative to the dumping of nuclear waste and other radioactive materials in the Pacific Ocean which could gravely threaten life and the environment as it exists today; and

1/ See T/COM.10/L.282-283, 285, 291 and T/PET.10/151.

WHEREAS, the Government of Japan is continuing to move forward with plans to dump nuclear waste in the Pacific Ocean despite strong opposition from every Pacific Island Government in the region; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Second Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, second regular session, 1980, the House of Representatives concurring, that the Governments of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, Palau and other nations in the Pacific region are respectfully urged not to enter into further fisheries negotiations with Japan until such time that the Government of Japan abandons plans to dump nuclear waste in the Pacific Ocean and possibly endanger the waters and sea life that surround the islands to an unknown extent; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this joint resolution be transmitted to the Chief Executives of the Governments of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, Palau, Guam, Kiribati, Tuvalu, American Samoa, Western Samoa, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Nauru, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Tonga, Cook Islands, French Polynesia, the United States and Japan; to the Honourable Mike Mansfield, United States Ambassador to Japan; to the General Assembly and Trusteeship Council of the United Nations; to the Pacific Tuna Development Foundation; to the Federation of Japan Tuna Fisheries Cooperative Association; to the National Federation of Fisheries Cooperative Association; and to the Japan Far Seas Purse Seine Fishing Association.

Adopted: 31 July 1980
