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UNITED NATIONS TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL

PETITION FROM VIC BAUERIS, ACTING GENERAL SECRETARY, N.S.W. TEACHERS FEDERATION 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)

> > N.S.W. TEACHERS FEDERATION

Federation House 300 Sussex Street Sydney, 2000 Australia

26 June 1980

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

Dear Colleague,

My organization, representing the public school and college teachers in the state of New South Wales, has come to hear of the problems of the Palauan people in the Caroline Islands.

There is clear evidence that the Government of the United States of America has actively opposed the nuclear-free constitution and is continuing its efforts to retain military control of the island and its waters. There is a danger that the Palauan people will be prevented from exercising their vote, free from outside interference and intimidation.

Too often, the people of Australia find disparity between United States rhetoric which supports the independence and democratic rights of national groups, and the <u>reality</u> which supports client governments which are repressive. There are many examples of this having occurred.

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My organization is aware of the situation in Palau and that the people's desire for a nuclear-free constitution has wide support. We ask you to <u>use your</u> <u>best endeavours</u> to ensure that the genuine will of the Palauan people is allowed to be expressed.

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Yours sincerely,

(Signed) Vic BAUERIS Acting General Secretary