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SECURITY COUNCIL  
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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE  
TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

Letter dated 17 February 1978 from the Permanent Representative  
of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations  
addressed to the Secretary-General

I enclose the text of a statement by the Permanent Mission of the USSR to the United Nations.

I request that the text of the statement be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 24 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) O. TROYANOVSKY

\* A/33/50.

ANNEX

Statement by the Permanent Mission of the USSR to the United Nations

During the thirty-first and thirty-second sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, and also during the sessions of the Trusteeship Council, representatives of the USSR repeatedly drew attention to the abnormal situation in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (Micronesia) where the population has so far been unable to exercise its right to self-determination and independence, proclaimed in the Charter of the United Nations as a goal of the trusteeship system.

Instead of working towards the decolonization of the Territory, the United States, which is the Administering Authority, is in essence transforming it into a United States possession. It is thus violating the principle that a Trust Territory should be treated as a single entity and is attempting to partition it and to give a different status to its component parts. It is a well known fact, however, that the General Assembly, in its Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, condemned any attempt aimed at the partial or total disruption of the national unity and the territorial integrity of a colonial Territory.

According to information received, on 9 January 1978, yet another step was taken towards introducing a new status for the Mariana Islands as a "commonwealth in political union with the United States". The very title and provisions of the "Covenant" previously signed on this matter leave no doubt that the aim is to transform this Territory into a United States possession.

The United States is taking similar measures in connexion with two other archipelagos in the Trust Territory of Micronesia - the Caroline Islands and the Marshall Islands. These islands are being given the status of Territories "associated" with the United States, which in effect would also perpetuate their subordinate position.

The question of the future of Micronesia is an integral part of the problem of decolonization, the granting of the right of self-determination and independence to colonial peoples. Any measures taken by the Administering Authority, on any pretext, which would in fact mean the annexation of the Trust Territory are clearly contrary to the Charter of the United Nations, the Trusteeship Agreement and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and also contrary to elementary human rights.

As clearly established in Article 83 of the Charter of the United Nations, any alteration in the status of a strategic Trust Territory - which the Pacific Islands are under the Agreement between the Security Council and the United States - should be made only by a decision of the Security Council and, consequently, cannot be made by the Administering Authority, whose unilateral action on this matter should not be recognized as lawful.