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COMMUNICATION FROM THE PONAPE DISTRICT LEGISLATURE CONCERNING THE
TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

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of the Trusteeship Council)

PONAPE DISTRICT LEGISLATURE
Kolonia, Ponape
Eastern Caroline Islands 96941

FOURTH PONAPE DISTRICT LEGISLATURE
EIGHTH REGULAR SESSION, 1979

14 March 1979

The Honourable President
United Nations Trusteeship Council
New York, N.Y.

Dear Sir:

I have the honour to transmit herewith a certified copy of Legislature
resolution No. 289, LDI, which was adopted by the Fourth Ponape District
Legislature, eighth regular session, 1979.

Respectfully,

(Signed) Henry O. SAIMON
Legislative Clerk

Encl.

Fourth Ponape District Legislature
Eighth Regular Session, 1979

A RESOLUTION

Urgently beseeching and requesting the United States Secretary of the Interior to re-evaluate the policy statement of 9 November 1978, with respect to the application of federal Programmes to the Trust Territory, especially in regard to those programmes administered by specialized departments and agencies and designed for the development and advancement of indigenous enterprises.

WHEREAS, on 19 July 1947, the Government of the United States of America approved of the Trusteeship Agreement 1/ for the former Japanese mandated Islands of the Pacific: and

WHEREAS, in exchange with the United Nations for exclusive American defence and security rights over the area, the United States pledged to the United Nations Security Council, the community of nations at large, and the inhabitants of the Trust Territory in particular, that it would promote the political, economic and social advancement of the inhabitants of the area, and to this end protect the rights and fundamental freedoms of all elements of the population without discrimination: and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the solemn obligations the United States had assumed as Trustee over the inhabitants of these islands, authority was vested by the President of the United States in the Department of the Interior for the administration of the Territory, such administration to be in harmony with applicable law, and, where advantageous, in collaboration with other departments and agencies of the Government; and

WHEREAS, despite the good intentions of the Department of the Interior for the proper administration of the islands and its attempts at promoting the economic and social advancement of the people, the painfully slow start amounting to almost 20 of the 30 years the United States has administered these islands, coupled formerly with a general lack of expertise and knowledge in the Department over matters of under-development, have left the islands still largely devoid of the necessary infrastructure and the social and economic institutions necessary for the inhabitants to achieve self-sufficiency as mandated by the Trusteeship Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress, cognizant of the multiple needs and requirements of a developing people, has undertaken the difficult, but vitally

1/ Trusteeship Agreement for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands
(United Nations publication, Sales No. 1957.VI.A.1).

necessary steps of enabling the Trust Territory to participate in numerous federal programmes administered by the requisite specialized departments and agencies in the United States, and

WHEREAS, such programmes have recently been made available to the people of the Trust Territory through such departments and agencies as Agriculture, Commerce, Health, Education and Welfare, Housing and Urban Development, Energy, Labor, the National Science Foundation, and Transportation; and

WHEREAS, such programmes, if and when applied, would have a very beneficial and positive impact on the Territory, especially in areas of farm development, industry and fishing, for which expertise and experience is so badly needed, and

WHEREAS, a recent survey of the Office of Territorial Affairs has indicated that of the approximately 389 programmes available through the Federal Government to one or more of the Territories and possessions of the United States, the Trust Territory qualifies for 482, but only participates in 166; and

WHEREAS, the initiative and efforts of the Department of the Interior in assisting the island leadership in wisely selecting and attaining the benefits of these newly available programmes has been in recent years lack-luster at best; and

WHEREAS, on 17 November 1978, the High Commissioner of the Trust Territory, in correspondence with a policy statement issued by the Under Secretary of the Interior with concurrence of the Director of the Office of Territorial Affairs, promulgated the following directive affecting all Headquarters and District Government personnel: 2/

- "- The Department of the Interior will not seek or recommend new authorization for federal programmes to be extended to the Trust Territory;
- The Department of the Interior will request other Federal agencies not to increase their existing programmes to the Trust Territory;
- The Trust Territory will continue its current policy of not expanding participation in existing federal programmes;
- The Trust Territory will survey the list of existing programmes so as to eliminate those that are marginal or of low priority, these categories defined as those with excessive administrative costs in terms of benefits to recipients of the programme, and those that may be more appropriately phased out prior to the termination of the Trusteeship."; and

2/ See T/COM.10/L.242, enclosure 1.

WHEREAS, it is the sense of the Ponape District Legislature that this policy has been issued on a departmental assumption of a target date for termination of the Trusteeship Agreement and proposed future levels of financial assistance which have neither been approved by the Congress of the United States nor the people of the Trust Territory; and

WHEREAS, it is the further sense of the Ponape District Legislature that this well-intentioned but clearly recessive, paternalistic and sweeping policy issued by the Department of the Interior, undermines the obligations of the United States to promote the development of these islands as mandated in the United Nations Trusteeship Agreement, and the intent and purpose of the United States Congress in making these programmes available to the inhabitants of the Trust Territory; and

WHEREAS, it is the further sense of the Ponape District Legislature that the new policy of the Department of the Interior will have a definite debilitating affect on the efforts of the people of those islands to achieve social and economic growth, and will seriously inhibit the advancement of the people toward the level of self-sufficiency necessary to successfully conclude the Trusteeship Agreement; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Fourth Ponape District Legislature, eighth regular session, 1979, that the Secretary of the Interior is hereby urgently beseeched and requested to re-evaluate the interior policy statement of 9 November 1978, with respect to the application of federal programmes to the Trust Territory, especially in regard to those programmes administered by specialized departments and agencies and designed for the development and advancement of indigenous enterprises in agriculture and marine resources and in commerce, manpower development, and small industries; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Secretary of the Interior, the President of the United Nations Trusteeship Council, the President of the United States, the Chairmen of the House and Senate Sub-Committees of the United States Congress having jurisdiction over Micronesian affairs, the Secretaries of Agriculture, of Commerce, of Energy, of Health, Education and Welfare, of Labor, of Housing and Urban Development, of Transportation, the directing officer of the National Science Foundation, the Director of the Office of Territorial Affairs, the High Commissioner of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, the presiding officers of the Interim Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia and the Governor of Ponape District.

ADOPTED BY THE PONAPE DISTRICT LEGISLATION ON 4 MARCH 1979.

(Signed) Edwel SANTOS
Speaker, Ponape District Legislature

(Signed) Henry O. SAIMON
Attested: Legislative Clerk
