



Trusteeship Council

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

(Circulated in accordance with rule 24 of the rules of procedure
of the Trusteeship Council)

PONAPE DISTRICT LEGISLATURE
Kolonia, Ponape
EASTERN CAROLINE ISLANDS 96941

FOURTH PONAPE DISTRICT LEGISLATURE
EIGHTH REGULAR SESSION, 1979

15 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. 302 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

Relative to the budgetary crisis in Ponape District.

WHEREAS, despite the mandate of the Trusteeship Agreement that the Administering Authority promote the political, economic and social advancement of the Micronesian people, after more than 30 years of administration the United States has failed to fulfill its commitment to foster the over-all development of the islands; and

WHEREAS, it was not until the United States of America was called to task before the United Nations Trusteeship Council as to the inadequacy of its administration of the Trust Territory, that the United States began to focus on the financial problems and needs of the Micronesian people as well as their social and economic deprivation; and

WHEREAS, the delayed assistance rendered to the Micronesians by the Administering Authority has not been of sufficient quantity, quality or duration to compensate for the years of relative neglect, nor sufficient to bolster the economies of the Territory to a point where they can interact effectively with their island neighbours; and

WHEREAS, throughout the more than 30 years of the Trusteeship, the United States has continued to maintain complete and exclusive military dominance over the Trust Territory, without interference of the Micronesian people; and

WHEREAS, in pursuit of its own military interests in the Pacific, the United States until the mid-1970s prohibited the possibility of any foreign investment from entering the Trust Territory, while at the same time ignoring the possibility of granting tax exemptions and other incentives to United States domestic companies for promotion of development in the Trust Territory; and

WHEREAS, although inflation is escalating more rapidly in the Pacific than in the United States and population growth rates are among the highest in the world, and despite the fact that the heavily financed Headquarters level of the Trust Territory Government is decentralizing a substantial number of its costly functions to the district governments and the capital of the federated States of Micronesia is projected to be moved to Ponape, it has been administratively determined that the budget of this district should not be upgraded sufficiently to meet these new demands; and

WHEREAS, despite the readily apparent benefits of federal programme assistance which has been extended to the Trust Territory through various departments and agencies of the United States Government, it has been administratively decreed by the United States Department of the Interior that no new programmes may be extended to the southern districts of the Trust Territory and that existing programmes must begin to be phased out; and

WHEREAS, many of these programmes are designed to protect the health and welfare of the inhabitants, as well as to promote their economic growth; and

WHEREAS, if the current depressed projections for forthcoming budgets and desire for diminishing levels of federal programme assistance become reality, this district will of necessity be required to reduce substantially essential services now provided to the people, and in certain areas reduce such services to dangerously low levels; and

WHEREAS, such cut backs will seriously jeopardize the delicate balance of economic growth in the District, and may well result in the collapse or withdrawal of many economic projects and endeavours promoted by the Administering Authority in the recent years of the Trusteeship; and

WHEREAS, these proposed financial constraints may very well result in the loss, for lack of available maintenance, of a great deal of capital infrastructure in the islands emplaced here by the Administering Authority at the cost of millions of dollars, now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Fourth Ponape District Legislature, eighth regular session, 1979, that the High Commissioner of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands is hereby respectfully and urgently requested and beseeched to take every available action for and on behalf of the people of this District to ensure continued adequate financial assistance from the Administering Authority to meet its requirements under the Trusteeship Agreement, to keep pace with the rapidly escalating cost of government and the new demands for services imposed on this District, and to help build the desperately needed economic base required for the future growth of these islands; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Budget and Finance Committee of the Legislature is hereby authorized and directed to seek through every means available recognition of the financial and economic needs of the people of this district and the financial assistance necessary to provide for these basic needs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the High Commissioner of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, the Chairman of the Legislature Committee on Budget and Finance, the President of the United Nations Trusteeship Council, the Chairmen of the United States Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resource, Senate Subcommittee on Appropriations for Energy and Natural Resources, House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, House Subcommittee on Appropriations for

Interior and Insular Affairs, House Subcommittee on Pacific Affairs, the Chairman of the Joint Committee on Program and Budget Planning of the Interim Congress of Micronesia, the Director of Territorial Affairs, and the Governor of Ponape District.

ADOPTED BY THE PONAPE DISTRICT LEGISLATURE ON 3 MARCH 1979.

(Signed) Edwel SANTOS
Speaker
Ponape District Legislature

Attested: (Signed) Henry O. SAIMON
Legislative Clerk
