



Trusteeship Council

Distr.
LIMITED

T/COM.10/L.308
25 January 1982

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMUNICATION FROM SENATOR VICTOR REHUHER, SENATE, FIRST
OLBIIL ERA KELULAU (CONGRESS), PALAU, CONCERNING THE
TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

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

The Senate
FIRST OLBIIL ERA KELULAU
Republic of Palau
Koror, Palau
96940

12 January 1982

The Honourable John Sieberling
Chairman, Subcommittee on Public Lands
and National Parks
House of Representatives
United States Congress
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Welcome to the Republic of Palau! During your brief visit and throughout your several stops in Micronesia, you will undoubtedly be besieged with requests, suggestions and messages. Certainly no one should expect you to comprehend the United States policy or the views of President Reagan, just as I cannot be expected to comprehend the Republic of Palau policy or the views of President Remeliik. However, as an elected member of the Senate of the first Olbiil Era Kelulau, I feel the need to ask, and hopefully learn, of the United States' intentions in one crucial area.

For a moment I would like to direct your attention to subparagraph 2 of Article 6 of the Trusteeship Agreement 1/ for the former Japanese mandated islands. You understand that this Agreement is recognized as the fundamental authorizing document designating and empowering the United States as the administering Government over the people comprising what is now the Republic of Palau. Article 6 lists the responsibilities, in mandatory language, of the United States. My immediate concern is with subparagraph 2. The administering authority shall "promote the economic advancement and self-sufficiency of the inhabitants, and to this end shall regulate the use of natural resources; encourage the development of fisheries, agriculture, and industries; protect the inhabitants against the loss of their lands and resources; and improve the means of transportation and communications".

A one-day visit to these islands cannot do justice to their natural beauty, offer more than a superficial exposure to the richness of our culture, or indicate either the success or failure of the United States administration over the past 34 years. My concern at this time is whether the United States is sincere in carrying out the mandate of Article 6 of the Trusteeship Agreement, specifically the subparagraph quoted above. If we can determine that the United States is content to end the Trusteeship without adequate attention being directed toward our economic development, we would be violating our duty to the people of Palau if we failed to look elsewhere for development assistance.

We understand President Reagan's concern with balancing the United States budget. Indeed, we have similar concerns over inflationary trends and our own budget. Economic development is absolutely crucial to our future. For the United States Government to "block grant" these islands, as it would an economically well-developed state, is extremely confining in terms of development opportunity.

There are various estimates over how much longer the Trusteeship System will remain with us. As I began this letter, I expressed understanding as to your access or understanding of the United States policy. However, I must ask, will the people of Palau receive the necessary assistance to develop economically? Please take back to the United States these concerns. If you cannot guarantee the United

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

States policy in carrying out obligations accepted under the Trusteeship Agreement, perhaps you can understand our concerns and, further, understand our desire to seek additional, supplemental foreign assistance. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Victor O. REHUHER
Senator

cc: Congressman Robert Lagomarsino
Congressman Don Young
Congressman Douglas Bereuter
Congressman Anthony Beilenson
High Commissioner McCoy
Secretary of the Interior James Watt
President, United Nations Trusteeship Council
President, Republic of Palau
Members, first Olbiil Era Kelulau
