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COMMUNICATION FROM THE HOUSE OF ELECTED MEMBERS, PALAU LEGISLATURE
CONCERNING THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

(Circulated in accordance with rule 24 of the rules of
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PALAU LEGISLATURE
P.O. Box 8
Koror, Palau
Western Caroline Islands
96940

1 May 1979

President
United Nations Trusteeship Council
United Nations, NY 10017

Dear Mr. President:

Transmitted herewith is a copy of resolution No. 1008 which was adopted by the House of Elected Members of the Sixth Palau Legislature, eighth regular session, April-May 1979.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Simeon SKILANG
Assistant Secretary
House of Elected Members

Attachment

SIXTH PALAU LEGISLATURE

Eighth Regular Session

H.E.M. Resolution No. 1008

A RESOLUTION

To request the High Commissioner of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands to declare Palau a disaster area with regard to the power and water supplies.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PALAU LEGISLATURE:

WHEREAS, the supply of electrical power in Palau has been quite limited and unpredictable in the 30 years of the United States Trusteeship; and

WHEREAS, recent additional mechanical failure has forced further rationing of electrical power in the district centre; and

WHEREAS, such rationing leaves private residences, businesses, and public offices without electrical power for at least six hours a day, everyday; and

WHEREAS, such shortage of electrical power is not only an inconvenience, but is severely damaging the economy of the district centre by shortening business hours and causing untold losses of perishable goods and various electrical appliances; and

WHEREAS, the rest of Palau has virtually no electrical power with the exception of those few villages which have small generators that allow them to provide light for two hours or so; and

WHEREAS, the water system in the district centre is operable only six hours a day because the ancient water pipes can handle no more than that; and

WHEREAS, the water that is supplied during those six hours is so impure it must be boiled for two hours before it can be drunk; and

WHEREAS, this water system also fails frequently because of the deterioration of the pipes; and

WHEREAS, a sewer plant was built but never connected; and

WHEREAS, Palau has recently initiated steps toward accomplishing the smooth and orderly transition from trusteeship to self-government; and

WHEREAS, Palau realizes that such a goal is impossible without the development of an economic base; and

WHEREAS, the struggle to develop such an economic base is virtually paralysed by the deteriorated stock of physical capital, the most serious deterioration of which is in the power and water supplies; now therefore,

/...

Resolution No. 1008

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Sixth Palau Legislature, eighth regular session, 1979, that the High Commissioner of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands is hereby respectfully requested to declare Palau a disaster area with regard to electrical power and water, and to take whatever action necessary to rectify the problem; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the High Commissioner, United States Secretary of the Interior, Director of Territorial Affairs, Ambassador Peter R. Rosenblatt, United Nations Trusteeship Council, the District Administrator and the Chairman of the Palau Political Status Commission.

DATE ADOPTED: 30 April 1979

(Signed) Sadang N. SILMAI
Speaker

Attested:

(Signed) Simeon SKILANG
Assistant Secretary
