

✓
United Nations

Nations Unies

UNRESTRICTED

**TRUSTEESHIP
COUNCIL**

**CONSEIL
DE TUTELLE**

T/PET.9/1
6 January 1949

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

NAURU

PETITION FROM THE NAURUAN COUNCIL OF CHIEFS

DATED 20 AUGUST 1948

In accordance with Rule 85 of the Rules of Procedure for the Trusteeship Council, the Secretary-General of the United Nations transmits herewith to the members of the Trusteeship Council a communication dated 20 August 1948 from the Nauruan Council of Chiefs concerning the Trust Territory of Nauru. This communication was transmitted to the Secretary-General by the Minister in Charge of the Australian Mission to the United Nations.

C O P Y

Cable Address
AUSTUNAT, NEW YORK

Telephone
Longacre 5-5050

AUSTRALIAN MISSION
TO
THE UNITED NATIONS
4510 EMPIRE STATE BUILDING
NEW YORK 1, N. Y.

4th January, 1949.

..... The Minister in Charge of the Australian Mission to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to forward herewith a petition from the Council of Chiefs, Nauru, requesting that a representative from the United Nations visit Nauru to enquire into and discuss the administration of the island.

This petition was received by the Australian Department of External Territories in time, under the provision of Rule 86 of Rules of Procedure of the Trusteeship Council, for it to be placed on the agenda of the next Session of that Council.

The Secretary-General,
United Nations,
LAKE SUCCESS, N.Y.

Received at United Nations: 5 January 1949.

N A U R U D O M A N E A B

Nauru,
Central Pacific.

20th August, 1948.

Right Honourable, The President,
United Nations Trusteeship Council,
UNITED NATIONS ORGANISATION,
Lake Success - New York,
United States of America.

PETITION FOR A UNITED NATIONS REPRESENTATIVE TO VISIT
NAURU

Sir,

The Nauruans, through their Representative Body the Council of Chiefs, beg leave to submit the following petition. This petition should have been submitted in September 1947, when the Administrator of Nauru was at Lake Success attending the Meeting of the United Nations Organisation General Assembly, in the capacity of advisor in matters affecting Nauru to Australia's Minister for External Affairs, Dr. A. V. Evatt; but it was not possible to do so, as we were not informed of his attendance at the Meeting, and for this reason, the forwarding of this petition has been delayed.

It is here proposed to make known to members of the Council, that when the Island was first mandated to Australia by the League of Nations, in 1919, we, the Nauruans, were promised four years later, by our first Administrator under the Mandatory System, that we would be educated in order to equip ourselves to participate in the Administration of our own affairs. Despite the progress that we have made during the last twenty-five years, and the interest which we have acquired in the management of our own affairs, we still have no voice or say in the formulation of the general administrative policy of our Island.

As an instance of this, we have on several occasions approached His Honour the Administrator requesting some share in the control of the finances of the Administration of the Island. On each occasion, we have been told that such a thing does not come within our province.

We cannot see why we should not participate in this matter since all the revenue of the Administration is derived either directly or indirectly from the resources of the Island. We feel that being the indigenous people thereof, we should be entitled to some say in the use of it.

/This matter

This matter is only one amongst many about which we are very much concerned. We feel that it is the first and most necessary step towards improving the general conditions on the Island.

The period of twenty-five years, during which this Island has been under Australian Mandate, may appear too short for a people to absorb sufficient knowledge to be able to participate in the administration of their own affairs. This contention may apply in certain large communities, but here in Nauru, where the population is so small and where there is compulsory education and a high degree of literacy, a great deal could be accomplished in twenty-five years.

The Council of Chiefs therefore, petitions for a representative from the U.N.O. to visit Nauru to fully enquire into and to discuss the administration of the Island with the view to Nauruans taking some share of administrative responsibility.

{ STAMP }
{ Passed by }
{ The Council of Chiefs }
{ Nauru, 18.8.48. }
{ (Initialled)---(illeg.) }

Respectfully submitted,
(Signed) T. DETUDAMO
(T. Detudamo.),
HEAD CHIEF OF NAURU.

For and on behalf of the Nauruan people represented by the undersigned Chiefs - Members of the Nauruan Council of Chiefs.

P. BIMINITA
(Chief of Denigomodu)

----- (illogible)
(Chief of Nibog)

KAPUA
(Chief of Beiiji)

DENEA
(Chief of Anotan)

----- (illogible)
(Chief of Uaboe)

IKOMA
(Chief of Aiwo)

A. KUBOR
(Chief of Yarren)

J. CREMIA
(Chief of Meneng)

EOBOB
(Chief of Buada)

CAMENER DE ROBURT
(Chief of Boo)
