



UNITED NATIONS
TRUSTEESHIP
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

T/PET.10/124
21 February 1978

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

PETITION FROM MESSRS. TOSIWO MAKAYAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE,
AND BETHWEL HENRY, SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, CONCERNING THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE
PACIFIC ISLANDS

(Circulated in accordance with rule 85, paragraph 1, of the rules
of procedure of the Trusteeship Council)

CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA

KOLONIA PONAPE EASTERN CAROLINE ISLANDS 96941

10 February 1978

The President
Security Council
United Nations
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. President:

The people of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands will have the opportunity to participate in a Territory-wide referendum on the proposed constitution of the Federated States of Micronesia on 12 July 1978. In this connection, we hereby formally request that representatives of the Security Council be made available to closely supervise the referendum throughout the remaining six districts of the Territory.

The purpose of this request, which we consider of paramount importance in determining our future relationship as a united entity, is to ensure adequate involvement by the United Nations in the process whereby the people of Micronesia collectively determine their future.

In recent months, United States Ambassador Peter Rosenblatt, President Carter's Personal Representative to the Micronesian Status Negotiations, has made public statements within the Trust Territory that the proposed constitution of the Federated States of Micronesia is inconsistent with the concept of free association. However, it is our opinion that such public statements by the Ambassador are in themselves a form of interference in our constitutional development and are not

in accord with the concept of free association as defined by General Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) and declarations of the United Nations which respect and support non-interference in the internal affairs of all States, including the Trust Territory. We also wish to note that unofficial referenda have been held in two districts of the Trust Territory aimed at achieving political separation.

It has been alleged that serious election irregularities occurred in both areas. Therefore, we believe that close supervision of the constitutional referendum by the Security Council will be the only way to ensure that the proper conditions exist for all the people of the Trust Territory to exercise their right to vote freely in the referendum.

We also wish to note that during the 1469th meeting of the Trusteeship Council on 23 June 1977, the Council decided in principle to send a visiting mission to observe the referendum in the Trust Territory. However, due to the sensitive and complex nature of the problems involved, we believe that anything less than active supervision by the United Nations during the referendum and observation during the period of political education prior to it will invite further intimidation of Micronesian voters both from within and without the Territory.

We further note, in this connection, that while the Security Council delegates the nominal responsibility to the Trusteeship Council to review activities of the Administering Authority in Micronesia on its behalf, it is in fact the Security Council which will make the final decision on termination of the trusteeship. Accordingly, while we can understand why the Trusteeship Council, on behalf of the Security Council, has monitored the activities of the Trust Territory on a year-to-year basis and through tri-annual visiting missions, it would seem both appropriate and necessary that the Security Council become actively involved in the process by which the people of Micronesia will exercise their sovereign rights, and which act will set into motion the termination process.

In closing, we trust that the Security Council will endeavour to execute its responsibilities towards the people of the Trust Territory in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and Trusteeship System. We look forward to working closely with the Council in the months ahead in making the necessary administrative arrangements to dispatch a mission to Micronesia to observe political education efforts prior to the vote and to supervise the constitutional referendum itself.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Tosiwo NAKAYAMA
President of the Senate

(Signed) Bethwel HENRY
Speaker, House of Representatives

cc: President, United Nations General Assembly
Chairman, Special Committee of 24
President, Trusteeship Council
Cyrus R. VANCE
Andrew YOUNG
Peter ROSENBLATT
