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PETITION FROM THE SENATE, CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA CONCERNING
THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

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the rules of procedure of the Trusteeship Council)

THE SENATE

Congress of Micronesia

Fifth Congress, First Regular Session 1973

22 March 1973

The President
Trusteeship Council
United Nations
801 United Nations Plaza
New York, New York 10022

Dear Sir:

I transmit herewith a certified copy of Senate joint resolution No. 48,
which was adopted by the Fifth Congress of Micronesia, First Regular Session of
January 1973.

Respectfully,

(Signed) F. Sabo Ulechong
Clerk of the Senate

FIFTH CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA

FIRST REGULAR SESSION, 1973

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 48

A SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress of Micronesia that the people of Roi-Namur should be permitted to return to their island and respectfully requesting the Administering Authority and the United Nations to assure the peaceful and uninterrupted return and resettlement of the said people, to their island and to provide for relief funds for that purpose.

WHEREAS, the United States Armed Forces have retained and used the island of Roi-Namur for the defence purposes of the United States of America without having compensated the landowners for the use and occupancy of their land; and

WHEREAS, the Roi-Namur landowners have suffered considerable hardship for a long period of time by the loss of their land; and

WHEREAS, the United States Government has been breaking its promises to the people of Micronesia regarding the taking of their land and has been most equivocal in any attempt to bring about settlement of the long pending Roi-Namur case; and

WHEREAS, the legal assistance to the people of Roi-Namur for these negotiations which was promised and initiated by the High Commissioner has been denied and discontinued by the representatives of the United States Government; and

WHEREAS, it now appears that the possibility of fair negotiations for an equitable settlement between the representatives of the people of Roi-Namur and the United States Government is improbable and uncertain, and may entail further unreasonable delays for a long time because of the action of the United States Government to deny legal representation to the people of Roi-Namur; and

WHEREAS, such situation has become almost hopeless considering the time which has passed during the last decade and the only remaining desire and hope of the people is to return and find peace and livelihood on their island of Roi-Namur; and

WHEREAS, it is almost certain that the involvement of the United Nations in monitoring and assisting in this matter will assure the peaceful and uninterrupted return and resettlement of the people of Roi-Namur; and

WHEREAS, in the event the attempt to obtain financial assistance to regain control of their island should prove unsuccessful, the need for appropriate United Nations funds becomes apparent; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Fifth Congress of Micronesia, First Regular Session, 1973, the House of Representatives concurring, that it is the sense of the Congress of Micronesia with regard to the case of the people of the Roi-Namur island that:

(1) it sympathizes with the grievances of the people for the unfair treatment accorded them and the undue inconveniences and burden inflicted upon them for an unreasonable period of time by the United States Government;

(2) it recognizes the legal rights of the people of return to their homeland, the need of the people to rectify the situation by themselves when the hope of fair settlement for the use of their land by the United States Government has been uncertain for a period of more than 25 years;

(3) it supports such justifiable movement on the part of the people to seek peaceful redress by themselves;

(4) it urges the United States Government to give all possible support and co-operation to make the resettlement of the Roi-Namur people possible and peaceful; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United Nations is respectfully requested to dispatch observers to the scene where and when the resettlement movement is to take place to assure peaceful resettlement of the people on Roi-Namur Island; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in the event the funds appropriated by this Congress for the purpose of assisting and defraying the cost of resettling the people of Roi-Namur, including cost of building shelters and providing means of subsistence as well as other needs in the process of the resettlement, are not available or made unavailable by action of the Trust Territory Administration, the United Nations or its appropriate agencies are hereby and respectfully requested to give financial assistance in any amount they deem necessary for, at least, the cost of the first year of the resettlement of the people; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Senate joint resolution be forwarded to the High Commissioner of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Secretary of the Interior, Secretary of Defense, Speaker of the House of Representatives and President of the Senate of the Congress of the United States and President of the Trusteeship Council and the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Adopted: 25 February 1973
