

UNITED NATIONS
TRUSTEESHIP
COUNCIL



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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

PETITION FROM REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEOPLE OF SAIPAN
CONCERNING THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

Note by the Secretary-General: In accordance with rule 85 and supplementary rule F of the rules of procedure for the Trusteeship Council, the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the members of the Trusteeship Council and to the Government of Italy as the Administering Authority of the Trust Territory of Somaliland, two communications, one dated 28 February 1953 and the other undated from representatives of the people of Saipan concerning the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

This communication was transmitted to the Secretary-General by the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in the Pacific.

COPY

FROM: The People of Saipan, M.I.

TO: The Visiting Commission of the UNITED NATIONS.

Subject: Petitions.

1. Physical restoration of damaged property after the Island was secured by the armed forces of the U.S.A.
2. Compensation for the occupation of private property from 10 July 1944 to 30 June 1949.
3. Organic act for the Trust Territory.

1. After the Armed forces declared the Island of Saipan secure, much of the property was occupied by the armed forces. Among the properties occupied was also privately owned property, property which was owned by the people of Saipan. When the armed forces left, the property was left in the same condition as they had placed it, some places were filled with coral, making the property unfit for farming; in other places the rubbish and debris that was bulldozed off places used was left on adjoining properties, holes were bulldozed out in places, parapets built of earth. These things remain until today, and in giving the land back to the people, we find much of it useless for our purposes of farming, unless the debris is removed and some effort is made to level out the properties and remove the coral as far as possible. We call attention to the present Commission of the United Nations and ask them whether some provision could not be made to restore the property as far as reasonably possible to its former conditions that it might once more be used for farming, and grazing.

2. In occupying private property from June 30, 1944 until July 1, 1949, or more exactly 10 of July 1944 until 30 June 1949 the people of Saipan were prevented from using these same lands for themselves and productive purposes. While we do not object to these properties having been used, we would like to draw this commission's attention to the fact that up until now no compensation

has been made. We call attention to this fact, because we feel that with the compensation given a more speedy reconstruction will be possible on the Island of Saipan, and the Island can be quickly be placed on a firm economic basis.

3. An Organic Act for the Trust Territory will do much to determine the political and economic status of the peoples of the Trust Territory.

(Signed) J.S. PANGELINAN

Chairman

Congress of Saipan

(Signed) ELIAS P. SABLAN

Mayor,

Municipality of Saipan, M.I.

Received at United Nations Headquarters on 9 March 1953.

MUNICIPALITY OF SAIPAN

SAIPAN, M.I.

28 February 1953

PETITION

To: The United Nations Delegates visiting Mission

From: The People of Saipan

Excellency:

We respectfully ask you to take our petition under consideration, because we feel that our life up to the present time is a bit too hard, due to the destruction caused by the war. Our properties have been destroyed, our inheritance lost, and a goodly number of our brethren have been killed in the war. Although 9 years have passed since the war, we still not sure of our properties. This is not a new petition, but one that has been many times in the past years. We have frequently asked the Naval and Interior Government but no answer and no hope has been given us

We understand that our brethren on Guam are very content now because they have received full compensation for their losses. For the Philipinos too compensation has been approved and received from Japan. The same applies to other nations in the Orient, compensation has been approved and made by Japan. We also understand that one of the Islands in the Trust Territory (Ponape) has been paid damages by Japan.

We feel that our claim to damages suffered during the war is in the same category as those mentioned above, (at least Ponape) who have received compensation for losses. But unfortunately for ours up to the present no answer has been received on this matter. We, therefore, respectfully come to you as our protector in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and ask your help, so that the points

mentioned below may be finally cleared and settled.

1. DAMAGES BEFORE THE INVASION OF 1944

- A. Many native homes were destroyed by the Japanese armed forces and the materials were taken by them for their own use without compensation to the owners.
- B. We were driven from our homes in Garapan 5 months before the invasion so that the Japanese armed forces might use these buildings.

2. DURING THE INVASION

- A. About 400 natives lost their lives during this time.
- B. Our homes were destroyed, our possessions lost, and our cattle and animals killed.

3. AFTER THE INVASION

- A. We saw after the invasion that quite a number of our homes and ranch houses were still standing. All these were bulldozed and burned by the American Armed forces. And the destruction of the bulldozer was thorough, and permanent.
- B. About 80% of our lands was either covered with cascao (coral) or was dug up.
- C. Our lands were occupied by the American armed forces from the time of the invasion up to 1949 and much of the land has up to the present time been retained. All this without compensation of any kind.
- D. We were asked to turn our Japanese money to be exchanged for American money. Up to the present we have not received the American money. Proof for this rests in the many receipts at present held by the people.
- E. Complete markers have been destroyed and up to the present time we do not know the boundaries of our own lands.

These are a few of the more important losses we have suffered. We have frequently asked the Administering Authorities to settle these matters, but without results.

We most sincerely desire that our petition will meet with favorable consideration and that assistance will be quickly forthcoming through your kind efforts, for which we sincerely say: GOD REWARD YOU.

(Signed) J.S. PANGELINAN

Jose S. Pangelinan
Chairman 6th Congress of Saipan

(Signed) ELIAS P. SABLAN

Mayor, Municipality of Saipan,
M.I.