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PETITION FROM CHIEFS AND PEOPLE OF KITI
CONCERNING THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

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

COPY

1. We the chiefs and people of Kiti petition the exalted people of the United Nations Delegation

Concerning Schools

We request of you members of the United Nations Mission that you should assist us with schooling, as was done during the Japanese regime when they sent some to Japan. We request that you give this assistance to the chiefs so that they may be free to be blessed with knowledge so that they may some day be fit to govern their people; and that the government and the United Nations Delegation should devise some workable way to assist the children of the chiefs to receive enlightenment and wisdom under the authority of the United Nations Delegations. This should not only be for chiefs, but it should be proper for all people who are able to pay for their own children to be able to obtain the blessings of a foreign education. Those whose families are able to pay should go to school abroad to bring back to Ponape the great value of it. Education has flourished here in Ponape in the various schools. And they have also sent some children away and have discovered the value of this. That is why we request the Delegation to help us so that all may obtain an opportunity for schooling.

2. We the chiefs and people of Kiti petition the exalted members of the United Nations Delegation:

That you give consideration to an important activity which we requested during the Japanese regime. The Japanese let us join and become members of the Red Cross Society. And this was a success and they gave their insignia to the leaders of this organization. And we gave 20 yen to pay for the Red Cross, while the leaders gave 25 yen, and Ponapeans and Japanese were brought together freely to carry out this project. All learned of the advantages of this work by the Japanese Red Cross at that time. The Ponapeans have discovered its benefits and attest that this was a great aid from the Japanese Government. We would also like to receive this under the authority of you who care for us Ponapeans at present.

3. We the chiefs and people of Kiti petition the exalted ones of the United Nations Delegation

Concerning the Freedom and Welfare of the Ponapeans

All the people of Ponape and the various lesser islands were greatly disheartened by the Governor who came and cared for us Ponapeans in the last two years, since he did not carry out the desires of the people. Therefore everyone was indignant and dissatisfied.

But now a new Governor has arrived, Mr. Hedges, and he is a fine governor. All the Ponapeans are glad because they have this benign man for their governor. We trust that this governor will support our local customs and the progress of civilization which will liberate and benefit the people of the island of Ponape, but what if this governor should meet with some difficulty or with something due to which he would no longer stay on Ponape? We request the United Nations Delegation to have good will and dispose of these matters so that they will be in accord with the intentions of this governor who rules Ponape today.

4. We the chiefs and people of Kiti petition the exalted ones of the United Nations Delegation

Concerning the Price of Copra

In the Japanese regime a person could get 18 cents per kilogram and in the time of U.S. Commercial Company 8 cents per kilogram which was raised to 10 cents per kilogram. ITC took over and decreased it to 8 cents a kilogram and later to 6 cents a kilogram, reportedly in accordance with the decline in prices in the world market.

At present ITC is giving people $3\frac{1}{2}$ cents a pound for Grade I, 3 cents a pound for Grade II and 2.7 cents a pound for Grade III. And they also subtract two pounds for the weight of the bag and sell the bags to us at 24 cents a piece. Such is the price of copra at present, while trade goods are increasing in price.

What is to be done about this for ITC is going to leave and has not assisted us Ponapeans nor improved these unsatisfactory prices. For we have also heard that copra is selling for \$200 a ton in Japan. The unfairness of the price of copra in Ponape and its outer islands is evident from this.

Therefore we wish to request the United Nations to help us by raising the price to 10 cents per pound or so. May you assist us and authorize this petition.

/s/ Fret
/s/ Sarapin, Naniken of Kiti
/s/ Timoti
/s/ Iouanis
/s/ Alfred F. Sandos
