



Trusteeship Council

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PETITION FROM JANE FRENCH AND T. MULVIHILL, TIVERTON CAMPAIGN
FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT, 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)

Tiverton Campaign for Nuclear
Disarmament
C/o T. Mulvihill
Lower Oakford, Oakford
Tiverton, Devon
United Kingdom

11 March 1988

The Trusteeship Council
United Nations
New York, N.Y. 10017

We, the undersigned:

- A. Recalling that in 1979 the people of Belau voted by 92 per cent to establish their Constitution, which would protect their lands, culture, heritage and language for their children and future generations;
- B. Noting that this was the world's first nuclear-free Constitution;
- C. Aware that the United States Administration has demands for one third of the total land area of Belau for military bases and has forced the people of Belau to vote in 10 separate plebiscites in eight years and that these plebiscites have consistently failed to obtain the 75 per cent vote constitutionally required for change;
- D. Concerned at the eight years of continuous intimidation and pressure that have been exerted upon the people of Belau to drop their nuclear-free clause in the Constitution;

- E. Aware of the most recent plebiscite of questionable constitutional legality;
- F. Aware that lawsuits filed against the Government of Belau by Ibedul (High Chief) Gibbons, challenging the constitutionality of the 4 August and 21 August plebiscites, was withdrawn on 29 August after fire-bombing at the home and threats to the family of Chief Justice Nakamura forced the Chief Justice to evacuate his family to Guam and withdraw from the case;
- G. Shocked by the 7 September murder of pro-constitutionalist Rubak (clan leader) Bedor while guarding the office of Attorney Roman Bedor from expected fire-bombing in what can only be described as Belau's second political assassination;
- H. Deplores the threat made on 8 September against 50 machas (women elders) of Belau led by Bilung (Queen) Gloria Gibbons in the Koror Courthouse by Compact supporters who packed the courtroom and forced the machas to withdraw their lawsuit again challenging the constitutionality of the 4 August and 21 August plebiscites;
- I. Appalled that the Compact supporters responsible for the fire-bombing and threats on human life have occupied Belau's National Legislature and that President Salii himself has admitted that he has given them access to government vehicles and resources and has issued them with guns;
- J. Mindful of imminent new violence;

(1) Call upon the United States Congress not to implement the Compact of Free Association until the constitutional questions are settled and Rubak Bedor's murder fully investigated, and urge the renegotiation of the Compact of Free Association in line with the Belau Constitution;

(2) Call upon the Security Council and the Trusteeship Council to request the United States Government to honour the Trusteeship Agreement of the Pacific Islands (1947) 1/ and to give time to the people of Belau before any more referenda are allowed so that the rifts within the Belau community may be healed; to then offer the Belauan people a choice between a renegotiated compact and independence;

(3) Call upon the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations, the Security and Trusteeship Councils to support the wishes of the people of Belau as repeatedly stated during the plebiscites of 1979-1987;

(4) Send copies of this resolution to the United States Government, the Security Council, the Trusteeship Council, the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom to the United Nations and the Government of Belau.

(Signed) Jane FRENCH
T. MULVIHILL (Secretary)
Tiverton Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

Notes

1/ Trusteeship Agreement for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands
(United Nations publication, Sales No. 1957.VI.A.1).
