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PETITION FROM Mr. J.N. PEEK CONCERNING THE  
TRUST TERRITORY OF NEW GUINEA (T/PET.8/20)

Observations of the Government of Australia  
as Administering Authority

The Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to acknowledge the latter's note T/PET.8/20 of 14 January 1966 enclosing a copy of the petition from Mr. J.N. Peek concerning the Trust Territory of New Guinea. In this connexion, the Permanent Representative of Australia offers the following observations.

In July 1965, Miss Prasad wrote to the Department of Territories in response to an advertisement announcing a wide range of Education Officer vacancies in Papua and New Guinea. She stated she was in the final year of a technical college course which would qualify her to teach dressmaking, sewing and allied subjects. She later formally applied for a position of Education Officer Grade 1 (Technical).

However, the subject of domestic arts normally covers a wider range of skills, including cooking, home management and home nursing. Completion of her course would have qualified her only for casual certificated employment and thus not for the term of employment she was seeking.

At the time Miss Prasad was informed that because of the immigration requirements she could not be considered for appointment in Papua and New Guinea. The situation has, however, changed since and these circumstances no longer obtain.

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It is relevant that Miss Prasad was admitted temporarily to Australia as a student under a policy which provides facilities for young people from Asia and the Pacific to obtain qualifications in Australia which will be of value to their own countries on their return home. Had Miss Prasad been properly qualified for the position she sought (which she was not) this circumstance would have had to be taken into consideration.

New York

12 July 1966