



UNITED NATIONS  
TRUSTEESHIP  
COUNCIL



Distr.  
LIMITED

T/COM.10/L.93  
19 January 1973

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMUNICATION FROM MR. ATAJI BALOS, REPRESENTATIVE, CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA,  
CONCERNING THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

(Circulated in accordance with rule 24 of the rules of procedure  
of the Trusteeship Council)

2 November 1972

The Honorable Edward E. Johnston  
High Commissioner  
Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands  
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950

Dear Mr. Johnston:

I would like to request that your office - at your earliest possible convenience - inform me as to what action has been taken on House Joint Resolution No. 120, adopted by the Fourth Congress of Micronesia during its Second Special Session in Ponape District. 1/

The short title of subject resolution reads:

"A HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

"Urging the Department of Defense and the Army of the United States of America to pay just and due compensations to the people of Roi Namur for the use of their island by the United States Army"

This resolution, adopted on 2 September 1972, indicates that unless such just and due compensation is forthcoming the people "will after sixty days from now return to Roi Namur with or without approval by the United States Army". Although the sixty days are up, I have yet to hear of any response by the United States Government regarding this situation. While I am sure that the multiple problems of the Marshall Islands District generated by the United States military presence there must prove vexing to the Administering Authority, you may rest assured that they are no less vexing to the people of the Marshalls. Indeed, speaking for

1/ For the text of House Joint Resolution No. 120, see document T/COM.10/L.88.

the many displaced people of the Marshalls, I find the indifference of the United States military and civilian administration to these problems to be unconscionable and inconsistent with American democratic principles and the positive intent of the Trusteeship Agreement. The reluctance of the Administering Authority to deal with such long-standing problems is no doubt in great part responsible for the revulsion of many Micronesians when faced with an increased military presence as indicated during the current status negotiations. Certainly the example of the Marshall Islands District must stand as an example of a situation which other Micronesians in other districts wish to avoid.

The resolution asks for "just and due compensation". Nothing more. I think you must agree with me that this matter must soon be resolved to the satisfaction of the people involved. Consequently I wish to inform you that unless steps are taken to initiate settlement of this problem, I will instruct the displaced people of Roi Namur to reoccupy their land. I hope you will agree with me as to the urgency of this matter and that your office will immediately initiate actions to implement the intent of said resolution.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Ataji BALOS  
Representative, Marshall Islands  
Congress of Micronesia

cc: Secretary, Department of Defense  
Secretary, Department of State  
Secretary, Department of Interior  
Secretary, United States Army  
Chairman, United States Senate Foreign Relations Committee  
Chairman, United States House Foreign Affairs Committee  
Chairman, Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs  
Chairman, House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs  
President, Trusteeship Council, United Nations

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