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COMMUNICATION FROM PALAU DISTRICT LEGISLATURE CONCERNING
THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

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

PALAU DISTRICT LEGISLATURE

Legislative Hall
P.O. Box 8
Koror, Palau
Western Caroline Islands
96940

13 April 1973

President
Trusteeship Council
United Nations
New York, New York

Dear Sir:

I transmit herewith a certified copy of resolution No. 73(1)-2, which was adopted by the Fifth Palau Legislature, Fourth Regular Session, April 1973.

Respectfully yours,

(Signed) Sylvester F. ALONZ
Secretary

Enclosure

73-08730

/...

FIFTH PALAU LEGISLATURE

Fourth Regular Session, April 1973

RESOLUTION NO. 73(1)-2

A RESOLUTION

Directing the Select Committee on Development to study and recommend to the Palau Legislature whether separate status talks with the United States of America should be undertaken for Palau.

WHEREAS, under Article 6, paragraph 1, of the Trusteeship Agreement for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, the Administering Authority is obligated to:

"1. Foster the development of such political institutions as are suited to the Trust Territory and shall promote the development of the inhabitants of the Trust Territory toward self-government or independence as may be appropriate to the particular circumstances of the Trust Territory and its peoples and the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned;...", and

WHEREAS the Palau Legislature believes that sovereignty rests with the people and their duly constituted Government and that the people of each district of the Trust Territory have an inherent and inalienable right to decide their own future political status; and

WHEREAS, the various districts of the Trust Territory must each be allowed to determine that political status best suited to its individual needs before any really meaningful association between the districts can ever be developed; and

WHEREAS, the people of Palau have observed the debates in the Congress of Micronesia over the past several years, and have not been encouraged that any definitive decision as to the future government of Micronesia will be achieved due to the widely diverse cultures, backgrounds, inspirations and desires, of the various peoples of the Trust Territory; and

WHEREAS, after five rounds of negotiations, the Joint Committee on Future Status of the Congress of Micronesia and the United States delegation to the Micronesian status negotiations are still far from final agreement, and the prospects for an early agreement appear dim; and

WHEREAS, if by the end of the year 1973 there has been no truly substantial progress on an agreement with the United States as to the future political status of the Trust Territory, then it is the decision of the Palau Legislature to consider the desirability of beginning its own status negotiations with the United States for the Palau Islands; and

WHEREAS, in order to give due consideration to the important question of the future political status of the Palau Islands, the Palau Legislature wishes the Select Committee on Development of the Palau Legislature to study all aspects of the future political status of Palau and to make a report to the

Legislature on its findings during the October 1973 Regular Session; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Fifth Palau Legislature, Fourth Regular Session, April 1973, that the inherent and inalienable right of the people of Palau to seek and to attain a political status best suited to their individual needs and aspirations is hereby declared, and the Select Committee on Development of the Palau Legislature is hereby authorized and directed to study and recommend to the Palau Legislature at its next regular session whether separate talks with the United States as to the future political status of Palau should be undertaken; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Joint Committee on Future Status of the Congress of Micronesia, the Secretary of the United States Department of State, the Chairman of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the United States House of Representatives, the Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior, the Honorable Franklin Haydn Williams, the Trusteeship Council of the United Nations, the High Commissioner of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, and the District Administrator of Palau District.

Adopted: 13 April 1973

(Signed) Itebang LUUI
Speaker

Attested: (Signed) Sylvester F. ALONZ
Secretary
