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COMMUNICATION FROM THE HOUSE OF ELECTED MEMBERS' SIXTH  
PALAU LEGISLATURE, CONCERNING THE TRUST TERRITORY OF  
THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

(Circulated in accordance with rule 24 of the rules of  
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PALAU DISTRICT LEGISLATURE

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

24 December 1976

Honorable President  
Trusteeship Council  
United Nations, N.Y. 10017

Dear Mr. President,

I am transmitting herewith a certified copy of the House of Elected Members joint resolution No. 797 which was adopted by the Sixth Palau Legislature, second special session, on 23 December 1976.

Respectfully yours,

(Signed) Simeon SKILANG  
Secretary  
House of Elected Members

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SIXTH PALAU LEGISLATURE

Second special session, December 1976

H.E.M. joint resolution No. 797

A HOUSE OF ELECTED MEMBERS JOINT RESOLUTION

Relative to establishing the position of the Palau Legislature that a scientific, environmental study of the marine ecology of the Palau Islands should be a pre-condition of any other technical feasibility study of the Port Pacific concept and requesting the Government of the United States of America to assign sufficient funds from available sources to execute such required initial environmental study.

WHEREAS, the Palau Legislature, through resolution No. 76(2)-1, dated 20 April 1976, requested the United States Government, in its capacity as the Administering Authority of the Micronesian islands, to advise, assist and represent Palau in the development of the Port Pacific concept; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the said resolution, the Administering Authority, through the Government of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, has entered into an agreement with the Nissho-Iwai Company and the Industrial Bank of Japan, whereby the latter was authorized to undertake exploratory and technical studies to ascertain the feasibility of major port developments in the Palau Islands; and

WHEREAS, in light of criticism of the Port Pacific concept launched by some of the more vocal environmental and scientific organizations and as reported in the world press, and in light of its inherent controversiality it appears to be most important that a non-profit or not-for-profit internationally recognized and renowned scientific institution not directly or indirectly interested in the Port Pacific concept undertake an environmental study of the marine ecology of the Palau Islands in general and the proposed port sites in particular and, if desirable, establish environmental ground rules for any major port development projects, including the Port Pacific concept; and

WHEREAS, because of financial constraints, the Palau Legislature cannot adequately finance such a scientific, environmental study of the marine ecology of the Palau Islands at this time; and

WHEREAS, it is the sense of the Legislature that such an environmental study is an investment of the first priority in that it shall ascertain the environmental feasibility of a major port-based and port-oriented economy of Palau; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Elected Members, Sixth Palau Legislature, second special session, December 1976, House of Chiefs concurring, that it is hereby established to be the position of this Legislature that environmental studies closely co-ordinated and carried out under the supervisory control of the Special Committee on Palau Port Authority or the Palau Port Authority upon its creation shall be a pre-condition of any other technical feasibility study that may be required or undertaken, and that such studies be transmitted to the Palau Legislature, upon completion; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Government is hereby requested to represent the people of Palau District in selecting a non-profit or not-for-profit internationally recognized and renowned scientific institution not directly or indirectly interested or involved in the Port Pacific proposal to undertake such environmental studies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Government is hereby further requested and urged to assign sufficient funds from available sources to execute the required initial environmental study, the objective of which will be the establishment of environmental guidelines for port-oriented studies and ventures; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the Secretary of the Interior and the Director of Territorial Affairs of the United States Government, the President of the United Nations Trusteeship Council, the High Commissioner of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and the District Administrator.

Adopted: 23 December 1976

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