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COMMUNICATION FROM MR. UCHEREBLAU K. JOSEPH, HIGH CHIEF OF
ANGAUR ISLANDS AND MR. BALERIO U. PEDRO CONCERNING THE
TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

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

Angaur Island
Koror, Palau Islands
Caroline Islands 96940
23 April 1976

His Excellency Emperor Hirohito,
Prime Minister Takeo Miki,
Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Mr. Monoru Hirokawa

In reference to the proposal dated 1 April 1975, of Mr. Minoru Hirokawa, president of the Exploiting Company of General Resources, to mine phosphate deposits of Angaur Island, Palau District, I, as the High Chief Ucherbelau of Angaur Island, want to inform you formally that the Angaur phosphate claims against Germany (1909-1914), Japan (1914-1944) and the Government of the United States of America (1946-1955) have been submitted to the United Nations Trusteeship Council and are pending to be resolved with or through the United States Government as the Administering Authority of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Micronesia.

I want to remind that the Angaur phosphate claims must first be settled fairly before the proposal for mining should be considered. Though I don't own southern lands of Angaur where most phosphate deposits are concentrated, still I have a direct control over the Angaur main dock and the land where the phosphate-dryers are located, so that even if the southern land owners agree to mine their lands, I won't permit the use of the dock and the phosphate-dryers for mining operations unless the Angaur phosphate claims are first settled fairly.

I and most Angaur leaders, knowing that Japan is one of the most developed nations in the world, have been wondering as to what kind of conscience, human feeling and understanding the Japanese authorities have, particularly the Prime Minister; Minister of Foreign Affairs and Mr. M. Hirokawa, when they know that before the Second World War, Japan oppressed and inhumanly treated Angaur people

with cruelties and grave injustices by forcibly mining their limited and precious lands without compensations whatsoever and inflicted major and permanent damages to Angaur lands; furthermore, Japan brought the Second World War to invade and leveled Angaur to the ground without fair war-claims compensations. In view of these disasters and injustices brought to Angaur by Japan, now the proposal to mine Angaur again, are considered an insult to the Angaur people beyond my comprehension:

I believe the Japanese people, especially the university students, will support the Angaur claims that Japan should pay fairly for the previous mining and damages before proposal for mining should be considered.

I have to speak out to break the silence that has been kept too long before it is too late.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Ucherbelau K. JOSEPH
High Chief of Angaur Island

(Signed) Balerio U. PEDRO
Phosphate-Claims Representative