



UNITED NATIONS
TRUSTEESHIP
COUNCIL



Distr.
LIMITED

T/COM.10/L.166
30 January 1976

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMUNICATION FROM MR. D. LUCKENS, VICE-PRESIDENT, CAMPAIGN FOR
NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT, CONCERNING THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE
PACIFIC ISLANDS

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Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament
10 De Luen Street
Auckland 2
New Zealand

6 June 1975

The Secretary
Trusteeship Council
United Nations
New York

Dear Sir,

Mariana Islands trusteeship

At the Conference for a Nuclear Free Pacific, held at Suva in April, a number of resolutions were passed in reference to the Mariana Islands Trust Territory.

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament took part in this Conference and we are profoundly concerned for the freedom from nuclear weapons and the rights of the islanders to self-government.

We understand that the Government of the United States of America, as the controlling Power, proposes unilaterally to hold a plebiscite to determine the future of the Mariana Islands.

There are some grave issues involved:

- (1) We believe this is a violation of the United Nations trusteeship.
- (2) The right of self-determination is a basic right. It is important that this self-determination should be freely expressed and not imposed from without. To

fulfil this it is imperative that it should be carried out by the United Nations itself and not by the controlling Power. This is important both for the controlling Power itself and for the people concerned. Justice must not only be done but must also seem to have been done.

(3) While not negating only rights of association or amalgamation it is wrong for any country to hold power over another except for a short period under a United Nations trusteeship for the particular purpose of self-government. This is especially so where great cultural differences exist. The Mariana people should be able to make their own decision whether to join with any other group or not.

(4) Involved as we are with the abolition of nuclear arms it is very apparent that the "procession" of Territories of other ethnic groups far from their own homeland leads major Powers to use these areas for testing and storing of nuclear weapons. This leads to a major distortion of the local culture and economy, the pollution of land, sea and air, the alienation of people from their own lands and the proliferation of the nuclear arms race to the detriment of all mankind.

(5) We are opposed to all foreign military bases.

We therefore commend these resolutions to you, trusting the United Nations Trusteeship Council, whose responsibility it is to see that the Mariana Islands and all other such trust areas shall achieve independence and be free from the imposition of nuclear testing and foreign military bases.

(Signed) D. LUCKENS
Vice-President
Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament
