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COMMUNICATION FROM THE TWENTY-FIFTH SAIPAN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
CONCERNING THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

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

TWENTY-FIFTH SAIPAN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
P.O. BOX 107
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950

15 May 1975

Office of the President
United Nations Trusteeship Council
United Nations
New York, New York

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith you will find a certified copy of resolution No. 25-14-1975,
duly and regularly adopted by the Twenty-Fifth Saipan Municipal Council at its
second regular session, 1975.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Vicente T. CAMACHO
Speaker

TWENTY-FIFTH SAIPAN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
SECOND REGULAR SESSION, 1975

Resolution No. 25-14-1975

A RESOLUTION

Expressing dissatisfaction with the low war claim payments.

WHEREAS, as a result of the hostilities during the Second World War, the island of Saipan was practically devastated by the invading forces, and, in the course of securing this island, the residents suffered extensive losses and their property was almost totally damaged by the military forces of the United States of America after the island of Saipan was secured; and

WHEREAS, these damages resulted from a conflict that arose between the Government of Japan and the Government of the United States and the residents in the municipality of Saipan were innocent parties in the conflict between these two world Powers; and

WHEREAS, this destruction, which occurred more than a quarter of a century ago, substantially changed the entire life-style of the people of Saipan who, before the start of the Second World War, were practically self-sufficient and depended very little upon imports from foreign countries but, since the destruction of their properties and their homes, have been forced to rely on a salary economy and to exist on the whims and hand-outs of the United States Congress; and

WHEREAS, because of the almost total devastation that occurred on the island of Saipan during the Second World War, the people of Saipan have never really recovered from the effects of the war in that they have not been compensated for the destruction of their property, injuries and payments for the loss of their loved ones and families; and

WHEREAS, after concerted efforts by the local legislative bodies in the district and the municipality, the Micronesian Claims Commission was formed in 1971 and was given the responsibility of investigating and making awards to the people for their losses; and

WHEREAS, after more than two years of its existence, the Micronesian Claims Commission has only adjudicated approximately 10 per cent of the claims in the municipality of Saipan and is now rushing to complete the adjudication of claims for the residents of Saipan prior to the statutory termination date of its existence on 15 October 1976; and

WHEREAS, from a review of the awards that have been made by the Micronesian Claims Commission to date and the policy of the United States Secretary of the Interior to only pay 16 per cent of the adjudicated award, it is evident that unless positive steps are taken by the legislative bodies having jurisdiction over the municipality of Saipan to protect the interests of the residents, they will suffer untold hardships in the settlement of their claims; and

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WHEREAS, in order to protect the residents in the municipality of Saipan, there is a need to establish a war claims fund for the municipality of Saipan from which claimants who have received awards may be paid at least 50 per cent of those awards from that fund and to assign their claims to the Marianas Island District Legislature for further prosecution and collection from the Government of Japan and the Government of the United States, "for the full settlement of claims";

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Twenty-Fifth Saipan Municipal Council, second regular session, 1975, that the dissatisfaction with the low war-claim payments be and is hereby expressed.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the District Administrator, the High Commissioner, the Micronesian Claims Commission, the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission, the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, the Chairman of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, the United States Department of the Interior and the United States Department of State and the President of the United Nations Trusteeship Council.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 2nd day of April, 1975.

(Signed) Vicente T. CAMACHO
Speaker

ATTESTED:
(Signed) Daniel T. MUNA
Clerk of the Council
