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COMMUNICATION FROM THE HOUSE OF CHIEFS, 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

9 May 1976

President
Trusteeship Council
United Nations
New York, NY 10017

Dear Sir:

I am transmitting to you House of Chiefs resolution No. 76-2-6, which was adopted during the Sixth Palau Legislature, second regular session, April-May 1976, for your attention and information.

The House of Chiefs of the Palau District Legislature, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, requests your assistance in furthering the intent and purpose of this resolution.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Moses ULUDONG
Clerk
House of Chiefs

SIXTH PALAU LEGISLATURE
Second Regular Session

H.O.C. RESOLUTION NO. 76-2-6

A HOUSE OF CHIEFS RESOLUTION

Requesting the Congress of Micronesia and the High Commissioner to establish a special commission or to authorize any of the already existing territory-wide organizations to undertake study, research, investigation, survey and exploration toward the exploitation of undersea minerals including oil and gas, throughout the Micronesian waters within the 200-mile economic zone.

WHEREAS, Tonga, Western Samoa and Fiji have asked the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) to sponsor undersea mineral surveys in their sea; and

WHEREAS, potential undersea oil in western Micronesia is clearly indicated in several maps available at the Congress of Micronesia, and Carlton Skinner's Micronesia Resources, Inc., formed in July 1974 is authorized to explore for this, as well as Continental Ores and Palau mining associates; and

WHEREAS, Howard Hughes' corporation, in conjunction with the Rockefeller interest group, has already discovered numerous locations of manganese-nickel nodules scattered throughout Micronesia, with a very rich area near the Marshall Islands; and

WHEREAS, undersea oil is a \$10 billion a year business yielding 20 per cent of world production, and undersea gas yielding 10 per cent of world output or 50,000 billion cubic feet; and

WHEREAS, by the mid-1970s, petroleum will surpass fish as the sea's largest cash crop; and

WHEREAS, the United States of America spent \$300 billion for losing the Indo-China conflict, and the Rockefellers have announced that oil firms plan to invest \$30 billion for oil development in South-East Asia, which may indicate that the political status strategy of the United States is geared to a direct economic interest; and

WHEREAS, 25 major corporations have invested close to \$300 million in ocean mining, have developed the technology to mine down to 20,000-foot depths, and have pinpointed very dense areas of up to 15,000 tons of minerals per square mile of ocean floor; and

WHEREAS, a Japanese official, Yoshio Masuda, with the oceanographic unit of the Japanese maritime self-defence force, claims that there exists 1,500 billion tons of mineral deposits in the Pacific Ocean alone; and

WHEREAS, in 1970, the United States spent \$600 million for the import of manganese, cobalt, nickel and copper - four of the approximately 30 minerals contained in the sea floor deposits; and

WHEREAS, the United States imports almost 20 per cent of its petroleum needs and almost 100 per cent of its cobalt, nickel and tin, all of which are found in Micronesian waters; and

WHEREAS, Hawaii announced during the summer of 1974 that its waters contain ores valued at \$785 million; and

WHEREAS, the Japanese corporations and the Howard Hughes Corporation are presently conducting active and secret exploration in Hawaiian waters; and

WHEREAS, the Earth Resources Technology Satellite (ERTS) has been used in mineral exploration; and

WHEREAS, the Congress of Micronesia's report from the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, held at Caracas, is presently in the stage of being completed; and

WHEREAS, undersea oil exploration requires a long period of time and only by actual drilling can the suspected, potential deposits be discovered; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Chiefs, Sixth Palau Legislature, second regular session, 1976, that the Congress of Micronesia and the High Commissioner are hereby requested to establish a special commission or to authorize any of the already existing territory-wide organizations to undertake study, research, investigation and exploration toward exploitation of undersea minerals, including oil and gas, throughout the Micronesian waters within the 200-mile economic zone;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be sent to the High Commissioner, the Congress of Micronesia, the Trust Territory Department of Resources and Development, the United Nations Trusteeship Council and ESCAP.

ADOPTED: 4 May 1976

Certified by: _____
(Signed) Yutaka GIBBONS
High Chief Ibedul

Attested by: _____
(Signed) Moses ULUDONG
Clerk, House of Chiefs
