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COMMUNICATION FROM THE PALAU DISTRICT 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

4 November 1974

President  
United Nations Trusteeship Council  
United Nations Building  
New York, New York

Dear Mr. President:

I transmit herewith a certified copy of resolution No. 74(2)-12, which was adopted by the Fifth Palau Legislature, Seventh Regular Session, October 1974.

Respectfully yours,

(Signed) Sylvester F. ALONZ  
Executive Secretary

FIFTH PALAU LEGISLATURE

RESOLUTION NO. 74(2)-12

Seventh Regular Session, October 1974

A RESOLUTION

Relative to authorizing and endorsing the establishment of the Palau-Mariana Joint Committee on Reparations.

WHEREAS, the question of equitable settlement of claims for the inhabitants of Palau District and Mariana District is of grave concern to the leadership of these two districts;

WHEREAS, during the existence of the Micronesian Claims Commission in the past two years, it has become evident that the interest and welfare of the people who have meritorious claims are not going to be protected unless a renewed and concerted effort is made by the elected leadership to protect the interest of these claimants;

WHEREAS, the Palau-Mariana Joint Committee on Reparations will deal not only with the problems involved in war claims that fall under the purview of the Micronesian Claims Commission, but will also seek compensation for: (a) the damage caused by the Japanese prior to the hostilities of the Second World War, when land in Palau was confiscated for Japanese military use and for phosphate mining companies; and (b) the adverse economic impact of the African snails and coconut beetles brought in by the Japanese to destroy the crops and hence force the people to leave and forfeit their land to the Japanese companies at very modest rentals;

WHEREAS, in addition, the Joint Committee on Reparations will also seek supplemental appropriations to augment the fund that presently exists for the payment of claims under the Micronesian Claims Act, in addition to seeking additional compensation for those claims that do not fall under the purview of the present Micronesian Claims Act of 1971, specifically, damages that occurred after 1 July 1951;

WHEREAS, the Palau-Mariana Joint Committee on Reparations, as a result of the extensive discussion between the leaders of these two districts, holds the best hope for an equitable settlement of this problem; and

WHEREAS, we, the elected leaders of the Palau District, being obligated to protect the health, safety and general welfare of the people of Palau District, do endorse the idea of establishing the Palau-Mariana Joint Committee on Reparations and fully support the objectives of this Committee;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Fifth Palau Legislature, Seventh Regular Session, October 1974, that the establishment of Palau-Mariana Joint Committee on Reparations be and hereby is fully endorsed and confirmed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the District Administrator; the Micronesian Claims Commission; the High Commissioner of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands; the Chairman of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission; the Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior; the Secretary of the United States Department of State; the Secretary of the United States Department of Defense; the President of the United Nations Trusteeship Council; the Chairman of the United States Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs; the Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Internal Organizations and Movement of the Committee on Foreign Affairs; the House of Representatives, United States Congress, to United States Congresswoman Patsy T. Mink; to United States Congressman Thomas Foley; Congressman Spark Matsunaga; and Congressman Lloyd Meeds.

Adopted: October 15, 1974

(Signed) Itebang LUUI, Speaker

Attested: (Signed) Sylvester F. ALONZ, Secretary

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