



Trusteeship Council

Distr.  
GENERAL

T/PET.10/693  
18 April 1988

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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PETITION FROM DR. M. HERSH, CONCERNING THE TRUST  
TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

(Circulated in accordance with rule 85, paragraph 1, of  
the rules of procedure of the Trusteeship Council)

20 Battlefield Avenue  
Glasgow G42  
Scotland

2 March 1988

The Trusteeship Council  
United Nations  
New York, N.Y. 10017

Dear Sir,

I am writing to express my concern over events in Belau over the last 10 years. In 1979, the people of Belau voted by 92 per cent to establish a Constitution which would protect their lands, culture, heritage and language, and which was also nuclear-free. Since then, the United States Government has forced the people of Belau to hold 10 separate referendums about this Constitution. This number of referendums on a single issue is unheard of elsewhere and constitutes an unwarranted attack on the democratically expressed wishes of the Balauan people.

This pressure has been supplemented by eight years of continuous intimidation and acts of terrorism. This violence includes the murder on 7 September 1987 of pro-constitutionalist Rubak Bedor and the fire-bombing of the home of the Chief Justice Nakamura, as well as numerous threats against the families of those trying to support the Constitution.

Despite this, the 75 per cent vote required to abrogate the Constitution and implement the Compact of Free Association with the United States, allowing the United States to use one third of the land area of Belau for military bases, has not been obtained.

The people of Belau are entitled to self-determination. I am therefore calling on the United States Congress to renegotiate the Compact of Free Association in line with the Balau Constitution, and then to offer the Belauan people a choice between this renegotiated Compact and independence; on the Trusteeship Council and the Security Council to request the United States Government to honour the 1946 Trusteeship Agreement of the Pacific Islands, 1/ to cease its pressure on, and intimidation of, the Belauan people and give them the choice between a renegotiated compact and independence; and on the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations and the Security and Trusteeship Councils to support the wishes of the people of Belau as repeatedly stated in the referendums of 1979-1987.

Copies of this letter have been sent to the United States Government, the Security Council, the Trusteeship Council and the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) Dr. M. HERSH

Notes

1/ Trusteeship Agreement for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands  
(United Nations publication, Sales No. 1957.VI.A.1).

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