



Trusteeship Council

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PETITION FROM MS. BRIDGET ROBERTS, WOMEN WORKING FOR A NUCLEAR-FREE
AND INDEPENDENT PACIFIC, 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)

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6 May 1988

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

Dear Madam,

Republic of Belau (Palau)

I wish to support those Belauans who are asking the United Nations to delay termination of the trusteeship of the Pacific Islands until such time as the Belauan people have had time and opportunity to prepare for a real choice about their future.

The Trusteeship Agreement 1/ requires that the people be developed "towards self-government or independence" (article 6). In past months, indeed years, the Trusteeship Council has received volumes of reliable testimony showing that the trend has instead been towards creating and cementing Belau's dependence on the Administering Authority, the United States, and that the democratic process has been continuously abused in repeated plebiscites, with accompanying violence against anyone defending the nuclear-free Constitution.

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Many people in Britain have heard about Belau. They would like to see the Belauans' wishes given the same weight as those of the Falkland Islanders, not ignored like those of the Ilois of Diego Garcia who were removed by Her Majesty's Government to make way for a United States base.

I urge the Trusteeship Council to do all in its power to see that the full spirit and letter of the Trusteeship Agreement are put into action before the trusteeship is terminated.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) Bridget ROBERTS
Women Working for a
Nuclear-Free and
Independent Pacific

Notes

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