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COMMUNICATION FROM MS. VERA ZIMMERMAN, CONCERNING THE  
TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

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14103 SE 168th St.  
Renton, WA 98055  
19 January 1983

Ambassador Fred Zeder  
Office for Micronesian Status Negotiations  
Room 3356  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Ambassador Zeder:

During the past year, as part of my church's mission studies, I have studied about people living in the Pacific Islands and about conditions under which they live. I have developed a greater awareness and interest in the needs and concerns of these peoples.

It has come to my attention that there will be a plebiscite in Palau on 10 February, and I have some concerns about it that I wish to express to you. One concern focuses on the timing of the election. The people there may not have enough time to thoroughly study and reflect on the agreements. I would urge you to postpone the elections again; this time making the date in late spring or early summer. A second apprehension is due to the wording of the ballot. I would like to see proposition two include three options for the voter: (1) a relationship with the United States closer than free association; (2) a relationship of free association with the United States but less close than that described in the present agreements; and (3) independence. I would also like the wording of the agreement to define clearly what restrictions will be placed on the presence of nuclear weapons in Palau.

I appreciate the time you have spent in considering my concerns. I hope that you will seriously contemplate them and address the wording of the ballot and the time of the election.

Sincerely,

(Signed) Vera ZIMMERMAN

Copies to:

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