

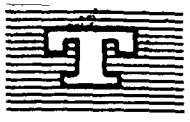
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COMMUNICATION FROM MS. BETTY OLSON, CO-ORDINATOR, NEBRASKANS FOR PEACE,  
CONCERNING THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

(Circulated in accordance with rule 24 of the rules of procedure  
of the Trusteeship Council)

NEBRASKANS FOR PEACE  
430 South 16th Street  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

A Chapter of Clergy and Laity Concerned

26 January 1983

Mr. Fred Zeder  
Office for Micronesian Status Negotiations  
State Department  
Washington D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Zeder:

The plan for a 10 February plebiscite in Belau on the compact of free association has us seriously concerned. We do not believe this proposed plebiscite, held at this time, is in the best interests of the people of Belau. We also question a separate plebiscite for Belau when, according to the terms of the compact signed in August, all three sections of Micronesia were to vote simultaneously on their respective compacts of free association. The rush to hold a separate plebiscite in Belau, when the others have not even been scheduled, indicates undue pressure by the United States Government to serve its strategic interests in the area.

The compact on which the Belauan people are asked to vote is a tremendously complex 300-page document which determines their entire future. Such a decision should not be made in a hastily called plebiscite. Furthermore, there are parts of the ballot which are deceptively worded. The Belauan people are asked to approve the "restrictions and conditions on the United States with respect to radioactive,

chemical, and biological materials". There are, in fact, no such restrictions. Rather, the agreement allows the United States to bring nuclear weapons into Belau during a time of "military necessity as determined by the Government of the United States". The use of the term "restriction" seems a clear effort to mislead the people of Belau.

United States plans under the compact, to take almost one third of this small nation for military bases and to use 30,000 acres for a jungle warfare training area, contravene the already expressed wishes of the Belauan people. Three times in recent years they have voted for a nuclear-free Constitution specifically forbidding the detonation, storage, testing, use or disposal of nuclear materials and chemical weapons in Belau.

Under the provisions of the United Nations Trust Territory Agreement 1/ which placed Micronesia under United States control, our Government pledged to work towards self-government in the area and to honour "the freely expressed wishes of the people concerned". A hastily prepared plebiscite on an agreement which gives the United States nearly one third of Belauan territory and responsibility for the security and defence of the country for 50 years, and which is deceptively worded regarding the critical nuclear issue, does not do credit to the Government which accepted this Trust responsibility. The plebiscite should be postponed (until such time as the people can be properly educated as to the true implications of the agreement).

Sincerely,

(Signed) Betty OLSON  
Co-ordinator  
Nebraskans for Peace

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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