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PETITION FROM MS. VIVIAN B. LUNA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMISSION ON
ASIAN AMERICAN AFFAIRS, STATE OF WASHINGTON, 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)

STATE OF WASHINGTON
COMMISSION ON ASIAN AMERICAN AFFAIRS
671 South Jackson Street, Suite 206, Seattle, Washington 98104
1515 S. Cherry St., Olympia, Washington 98504

10 January 1983

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

Re: Palau plebiscite on compact of free association

Dear Sir:

The Commission on Asian American Affairs urges the postponement of the Palau plebiscite on the compact of free association that is set to be determined at the polls on 10 February 1983.

The recent government employees' strike on 22 November 1982 combined with the 10-day state of emergency declared by President Haruo Remeliik does not provide a conducive atmosphere for the Palau citizens' education on the political impact of the compact. Confusion also was added to the situation by changing the plebiscite date three times.

With re-negotiations still occurring in late November and early December between Palau and United States negotiators on the capital improvements programme, there is inadequate time for the Palau citizens to become aware of the exact terms and explanations of the compact, along with its subsidiary agreements.

Therefore, based on the above evidence, the Commission on Asian American Affairs urges the postponement of the Palau plebiscite on the compact until exact terms are negotiated and there is provision made for a reasonable amount of time for all Palau voters to become aware of the important issues at hand.

Thank you for your consideration in this important matter.

Sincerely,

(Signed) Vivian B. LUNA
Executive Director

cc: Mr. Pedro Sanjuan, Office of Territorial Affairs
Mr. Fred Zeder, Office of Micronesian Status Negotiations
Giff Johnson, Pacific Concerns Resource Center
Ray Corpuz, Jr., Commission on Asian American Affairs (CAA)
Commissioners
