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PETITION FROM MR. CRAIG T. SHIMABUKURO, COORDINATOR, DISARMAMENT  
AND HUMAN JUSTICE PROGRAM AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE  
(SEATTLE) 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)

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE  
Pacific Northwest Regional Office  
814 N.E. 40th Street, Seattle, Washington 98105

21 January 1983

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

Dear Sir:

The Belau Plebiscite on the compact of free association, scheduled for early February, should be postponed.

Negotiations between Belau and the United States on the capital improvements programme were still being conducted in December. The recent State of Emergency declared by President Remeliik and the 22 November 1982 governmental employees strike make it extremely difficult for the citizens in Belau to adequately study the social and economic impacts of the compact and its subsidiary agreements. The plebiscite has been cancelled three times already, which has added to the confusion.

Because of these factors, the Belau plebiscite on the compact of free association should be postponed until the citizens there have the opportunity to study carefully all of the proposed agreements and to consider all of the potential consequences.

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English

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The United Nations should also investigate the United States Government's attempts to "influence" the Government and people in Belau, especially the role the United States played in opposing the Belaun Constitution, which had to be voted on three times.

A majority of the Belaun people have supported the "nuclear-free" constitution and favour self-government. The compact and the American Government would negate both.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

(Signed) Craig T. SHIMABUKURO  
Coordinator, Disarmament and  
Human Justice Program - Seattle

cc: Asia Bennett  
Joe Volk  
Pam Solo

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