



Trusteeship Council

UN LIBRARY

FEB 16 1983

UN/SA COLLECTION

Distr.
GENERAL

T/PET.10/232
7 February 1983

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

PETITION FROM MS. FRANCES CROWE 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)

3 Langworthy Road
Northampton, Massachusetts

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

25 January 1983

Dear Sir:

We are writing in regard to the current situation in Belau. The United States Government has decided that a plebiscite will take place there on 10 February 1983 to win native support for a "compact of free association", over the existing nuclear-free Constitution. We are writing to urge that you do everything possible to see that this plebiscite is postponed.

The compact that the United States State Department is asking the Belauans to vote on would allow the United States to begin using one third of Belau's land for military purposes, as well as permit the introduction of nuclear weapons onto Belauan soil, where they are presently forbidden. In the interests of self-determination for the Belauan people, this plebiscite must be postponed.

The hasty scheduling of this vote pre-empts the possibility of careful consideration by the Belauans of their future. Furthermore, the ballot is worded in a confusing manner, especially in the section referring to the introduction of radioactive, chemical and biological materials into Belau. The Belauan people, who have already overwhelmingly expressed their desire for a nuclear-free constitution, will be asked to approve the "restrictions and conditions of the United States Government" on these materials, even though the so-called "restrictions" are by no means restrictive. (They are essentially non-existent.)

The entire plan for this plebiscite is confusing and deceptive, by design: The United States State Department wants the Belauans to vote favourably on this, and realizes that they will only do this if they have no opportunity to consider what is taking place. The disorganized, premature planning for this vote (the date has been announced and changed three times so far), as well as the use of a deliberately deceptive ballot, ignore any respect of the Belauans' right to decide their own future.

In the interests of democracy, justice and self-determination, the plebiscite must be postponed to allow for a proper voter education drive.

Sincerely,

(Signed) Frances CROWE

cc: Ambassador Fred Zeder
Mr. Pedro Sanjuan
Representative Silvio Conte,
D-Massachusetts
