



Trusteeship Council

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PETITION FROM MR. AND MRS. WALTER JOHNSON 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)

R No. 1, Bags Lake
Pentwater, Michigan 49449

26 December 1982

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

Dear Sir,

Decisions about the future of a people and their country are a complex matter. In view of the fact that it has taken some 13 years for the United States and the Republic of Palau to agree on a compact of free association, it appears to us to be strange that so little time is allowed for the people of Palau to discuss and examine the agreement signed on 26 August 1982. One section of the agreement - the Capital Improvements Program - as late as November was in fact still under negotiation in Hawaii. Moreover, early in December the Palau Legislature directed its negotiating team to renegotiate several substantive agreements.

With the above in mind, the plebiscite date of 10 February 1983 is shocking from the standpoint of democratic free discussion and self-determination. It only makes sense if the intent of the United States Government is of ramming the compact through, regardless of the pledge in the 1947 Trusteeship Agreement 1/ to prepare the people for independence or self-government.

We believe that, in addition to supervising the actual voting, the United Nations Trusteeship Council has the responsibility for insisting that the plebiscite not be held until an adequate period for thorough voter education has been permitted.

Sincerely yours,

Bette and Walter JOHNSON

Notes

1/ Trusteeship Agreement for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands
(United Nations publication, Sales No. 1957.VI.A.1) .
