



## Trusteeship Council

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COMMUNICATION FROM MR. HARUO I. REMELIUK, PRESIDENT OF PALAU,  
CONCERNING THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

(Circulated in accordance with rule 24, paragraph 1 of the  
rules of procedure of the Trusteeship Council)

Koror, Palau  
20 January 1983

The Honourable Joshua Koshiba  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs  
Senate, First Olbiil Era Kelulau  
Republic of Palau, 96940

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is to acknowledge your letter of 7 January 1983 1/ regarding the Law of the Sea Convention and the ballot language on the compact of free association.

With respect to the United Nations Law of the Sea Convention, it is true that I had earlier decided not to send a representative to the Jamaica meeting held from 6 to 10 December 1982. This decision was based on the budgetary constraints the Republic of Palau was experiencing. The United Nations Law of the Sea Convention, as you may know, once open to signatures, remains open 24 months thereafter, and can be signed by any signatory who had not been present at the Jamaica meeting, either in Jamaica or at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

As to why we should wait until after the effectiveness of the compact of free association prior to signing, this is a limitation placed not only on the Republic of Palau but the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia by the United States Department of State policies. We have been so advised by the said State Department that, as long as the Trusteeship Agreement 2/ remains in effect, no constitutional Government within the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands will have standing to sign the United Nations Law of the Sea Convention. In other words, so long as the clout of the Trusteeship status remains with us, the Republic of Palau lacks international personality recognized by the community of nations and the requisite competency to execute such an international treaty as the United Nations Law of the Sea Convention.