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PETITION FROM MS. TANJA WINTER AND MR. BERNARD L. WINTER CONCERNING  
THE TRUST AUTHORITY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

(Circulated in accordance with rule 85, paragraph 1, of the  
rules of procedure of the Trusteeship Council)

8315 Paseo Del Ocaso  
La Jolla, Ca. 92037

27 January 1983

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

Dear Sir,

We have recently learned about the crisis that exists in the United Nations Trust Territory of Micronesia, particularly on the island of Belau.

Following the expulsion of the Japanese from the Pacific Islands in the Second World War, the United Nations in 1947 gave the vast area known as Micronesia to the United States as a Trust Territory with the charge to aid the peoples to improve their economic, social and health conditions. 1/ This trust has been violated many times due to the testing of weapons and the massive militarization of the entire area.

In the 1940s and 1950s, atomic bomb explosions over Bikini and Enewetak not only wreaked destruction upon those islands, but fall-out contaminated adjacent island people, damage that has caused untold suffering to this day.

We are particularly concerned with the continued disregard for the human rights of Pacific Island people and the compact of free association that is being imposed on the people of Belau. The 10 February referendum could terminate the United Nations Trusteeship and force Belau to provide military bases and missile firing ranges in violation of its nuclear-free Constitution.

The people of the Pacific have paid dearly for the nuclearization of their islands. They must no longer be victimized. We urge that you use your office to assure that:

1. The 10 February Belau referendum be postponed to allow the people of Belau additional time to prepare for this crucial vote which will determine their future;

2. Any agreement negotiated between the United States and Belau guarantee and respect the independence of the island, with full recognition of its right to reject further militarization;

3. Initiate an immediate investigation into human rights violations within the Trust Territory.

The shocking illegal practices which violate the United Nations mandate require your immediate involvement. Please reply.

Sincerely,

(Signed) Tanja WINTER  
Bernard L. WINTER

Note

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

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