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PETITION FROM MR. LARRY JAMES, RICHARDSON EAST CHURCH OF CHRIST,  
CONCERNING THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

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Richardson East Church of Christ  
Christians at Richardson East  
P.O. Box 2066  
Richardson, Texas 75080

1 February, 1983

The Secretary  
Trusteeship Council  
United Nations

Dear Sir,

This is to urge you to call for a postponement of the Palau plebiscite on the compact of free association between the Republic of Palau and the United States Government, which would allow the United States to buy military rights in Belau for a period of 50 years.

The negotiations on the compact have taken 13 years to complete and have resulted in a tremendously complex 300-page document. It seems essential that the Belauan people have adequate time to consider carefully all the provisions of the compact before they are locked into an arrangement permitting the United States to assume a strong military presence in that country. A 10 February plebiscite has been scheduled a mere six months after the compact signing. This makes careful consideration of the entire compact impossible.

Most disturbing, in regard to the ballot to be used, is the deceptive wording of question B relating to the introduction of radioactive, chemical and biological materials into Belau. On at least three separate occasions the Belauan people have overwhelmingly expressed their desire for a nuclear-free constitution. The wording of question B, it seems to me, is misleading and confusing at best. The voters

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will be asked if they approve "the restrictions and conditions on the United States with respect to radioactive, chemical and biological materials". Such restrictions are likely to be no restrictions at all since the agreement between the United States and Palau allows the United States to bring nuclear weapons into Belau during the time of "military necessity as determined by the Government of the United States". In the name of human rights and everything that is dear to citizens of the United States, it seems that this entire plebiscite is a violation of every principle of self-determination of peoples. Please exert your influence to see that this plebiscite is postponed.

I might add that when the compact was signed in August, it included the "principle of simultaneity" which meant that all three sections of Micronesia voting on compacts of free association were to vote on their compacts at the same time. The Belauan plebiscite, which has been scheduled for next month seems to violate this agreement since the other two plebiscites have yet to be scheduled.

Thanks in advance for your kind consideration of my views.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Larry JAMES

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