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PETITION FROM MS. SUZANNE THOMPSON, COORDINATOR FOR CHRISTIAN
SOCIAL INVOLVEMENT, UNITED METHODIST WOMEN, CENTRAL ILLINOIS
CONFERENCE, THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, CONCERNING THE TRUST
TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

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UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
Central Illinois Conference
The United Methodist Church

715 N. Fifth Street
Springfield, Illinois 62702
7 February 1983

The Honourable Paul Poudade
President
Trusteeship Council
United Nations
New York, N.Y. 10017

Dear Mr. Poudade:

I am very concerned about the 10 February date for the plebiscite in Palau. Information I have received from the Focus on Micronesia Coalition directed by Sister Barbara Glendon, tells me that the education programme in Palau is going slowly and poorly. I also question why the vote for Palau is scheduled ahead of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia. I have been studying a copy of the ballot and find its wording to be confusing. A Palauan citizen who in three constitutional referendums has supported the "nuclear-free" concept, unknowingly could vote against it.

This part of the world has suffered in the past and I hope that great care will be taken to see that this does not occur again. It would be a very grave sin for humankind to spoil this beautiful area by allowing nuclear waste to be dumped there. Please use your influence to get the plebiscite date changed until summer

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English

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so that the Palauan citizens can have time to educate themselves on this important matter and keep their island safe for human life and beautiful. I also hope that the ballot used at a later date could be re-worded.

Sincerely,

[Handwritten signature]

(Signed) Suzanne THOMPSON

Coordinator for Christian Social Involvement
Central Illinois Conference
United Methodist Women
