



Trusteeship Council

Distr.
GENERAL

T/PET.10/731
24 August 1988

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

PETITION FROM MR. SANTOS OLIKONG, SPEAKER, HOUSE OF DELEGATES,
SECOND OLBIIL ERA KELULAU (PALAU NATIONAL CONGRESS), 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)

House of Delegates

SECOND OLBIIL ERA KELULAU

(Palau National Congress)

P.O. Box 8, Koror
Republic of Palau
96940

9 August 1988

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

Honourable Sirs:

On 2 November 1988, a general election will be held, at which time the President, Vice President and all members of both Houses of the Palau National Congress will be elected. A general election is held in Palau only once every four years. The general election may be preceded by a primary election if a bill that has been passed by the Palau National Congress becomes law.

Election times in Palau are always tense and potentially volatile, but this particular general election comes at an already volatile time in Palau due to the corruption of some of our highest government officials and financial problems caused by their illegal expenditures.

Our experience of last summer, when armed persons camped outside the Palau National Congress and numerous acts of violence, including murder, occurred, has shown us that an arsenal of weapons is already in private hands in Palau. The majority of the crimes of violence involving illegal weapons, including murder, have remained unsolved and the perpetrators and their weapons remain at large. Liquor and illegal drugs flow freely in Palau, and especially so at election times, thereby exacerbating an already tense and volatile situation.

It is extremely important to the future of Palau that, during this extremely important general election, Palauans are able to exercise their right to choose their leaders and the course of Palau's future in a safe atmosphere, one that is open to debate without the threat of violence. Unfortunately, the campaign period has barely begun and already there have been incidents of campaign-related violence, including a shooting. The police department of Palau has already been shown to be incapable of maintaining law and order during periods of high tension, including elections.

For the above reasons, the Secretary of the Interior of the United States and the Trusteeship Council and the Security Council of the United Nations are respectfully, but urgently, requested to provide security personnel to Palau to maintain law and order during the November general election, the preceding primary election, if held, and the entire period of campaigning.

Sincerely,

(Signed) Santos OLIKONG
Speaker, House of Delegates
