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COMMUNICATION FROM THE SENATE, OLBIIL ERA KELULAU (PALAU CONGRESS),  
CONCERNING THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

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

The Senate  
First Olbiil Era Kelulau  
(Palau National Congress)  
Koror State  
Republic of Palau  
96940

9 May 1983

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

Dear Mr. President:

I have the honour to transmit herewith a certified copy of Senate resolution No. 94 which was adopted by the Senate, First Olbiil Era Kelulau, tenth regular session, 1983.

Respectfully yours,

(Signed) Sylvester F. ALONZ  
Senate Chief Clerk

Attachment

FIRST OLBIIIL ERA KELULAU  
Tenth Regular Session, May 1983

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 94

A SENATE RESOLUTION

Expressing protest over the arrest and 16-day detention of Palauan citizens by United States immigration officials in Guam citing it as another example of the many years of mistreatment of Palauan citizens attempting to travel, go to school or work in the United States, and urging long overdue changes in United States policies prior to the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement 1/ which are cognizant of United States' obligations as Administering Authority, basic human rights and courteous relations.

WHEREAS, citizens of the Republic of Palau comprised 19 of the 23 persons who were taken into custody by United States immigration officials in Guam on 28 March 1983; 2/ and

WHEREAS, all 23 of the detainees are "Trust Territory Citizens" as that term has been bestowed upon persons of Micronesia during the United States' administration of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands; and

WHEREAS, the United States willingly accepted as its role as Administering Authority of Micronesia, the obligations to promote the economic, social and educational advancement of the Micronesians, among other affirmative obligations; and

WHEREAS, those 23 detainees represent the most recent, flagrant and well-publicized example of situations which happen regularly at the hands of United States officials and at the expense of Palauans and other persons of Micronesia; and

WHEREAS, examples are frequent of Palauan elderly persons being detained at airports because of their unfamiliarity with the English language and of Palauan students being denied employment privileges or even being jailed for working, even though their scholarships are inadequate to cover school and living expenses, provided that they were fortunate to receive a scholarship in the first place; and

WHEREAS, our recent humiliation in Guam, a Territory of the United States, at the hands of United States officials supposedly knowledgeable in the law and sensitive to the Trusteeship still in effect, consisted of the arrest of 23 persons from a fishing vessel owned by a United States corporation, and which apparently took place because the ship captain did not present them for inspection or list their names on the ship roster; and

WHEREAS, of these individuals held in the Agana, Guam, jail, many were in custody for 17 days, all were labeled "illegal aliens" and ordered not to speak with the media; and

WHEREAS, these individuals were finally released and "deported" to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, without charges filed against them or

against the ship from which they were arrested or against the ship captain; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the First Olbiil Era Kelulau, tenth regular session, May 1983, that the First Olbiil Era Kelulau is protesting the arrest and unwarranted 16-day detention of Republic of Palau citizens at the hands of United States immigration officials; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States policies, particularly in the areas of citizenship, immigration and travel, are inconsistent and discriminatory and in need of reforms which are cognizant of the evolving status of Micronesia generally and the various island nations, Territories and commonwealth specifically; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that policy changes must take place immediately, prior to the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement, so that the many years of callous treatment of Palauan and other Micronesian persons by United States officials may be put in the past, allowing relations to improve rather than deteriorate further; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States of America, the United States Attorney General, the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Interior of the United States, Congressman Antonio B. Won Pat, the Director of the Office of Territorial and International Affairs, the High Commissioner of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, the President of the United Nations Trusteeship Council, the Governor of the Territory of Guam, the United States Immigration Officer on Guam, the Palau/Guam Liaison Officer, the Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the President of the Federated States of Micronesia and the President of the Republic of Palau.

Adopted: 6 May 1983

Notes

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

2/ See T/COM.10/L.334.

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