



Trusteeship Council

UN Doc. No. T/PET.10/730
12 May 1988
UN/ISA COLLECTED

Distr.
GENERAL

T/PET.10/730
12 May 1988

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

PETITION FROM MS. JOANNA SIMPSON 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)

33 South Terrace
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Durham DH7 9PS
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5 May 1988

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

Dear Sir,

I am writing to express my deep concern about the island of Belau. I understand that at present it is under United Nations trusteeship, but that the United States wishes to enter into a Compact of Free Association with the Belauan people, and that the question will shortly be decided by the Trusteeship Council.

I would urge that the island remain under United Nations trusteeship for at least five years, as it seems quite clear that the islanders have not been able to reach a clear decision about the future they want. There have been numerous referenda on the subject of the Compact of Free Association, which have consistently failed to gain the necessary 75 per cent majority in favour. There has been violence and intimidation surrounding these referenda, and many Belauan people are feeling frightened and isolated in attempting to come to a genuinely independent decision about what their relationship with the United States should be.

It would seem that the United States is putting considerable pressure on the Belauans to sign the Compact, but that this would allow the islanders no access to

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the process of law and would open the way to abuses of power. There is fear and suspicion of the United States intentions for the island, given the experience of other Pacific islands, and continuing United Nations trusteeship is seen as a protection against exploitation, military or otherwise, by a foreign Power.

Please give the Belauan people the opportunity to achieve true self-determination by upholding the United Nations trusteeship.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) Joanna SIMPSON
