



**Trusteeship Council**

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PETITION FROM MS. HELEN TRASK 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)

7 Furnace Cottages  
Crow Edge  
Sheffield S30 5HF  
England

28 September 1987

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

Dear Sirs,

I was appalled at the news that the Rubak (male elder) Bedor of Belau in the Pacific was murdered on 7 September while guarding his son's office, which was under threat of being fire-bombed. The MAAS (Women's Council) filed a lawsuit challenging the last of 10 referenda which they claim was illegal - the referendum was asking the people of Belau to agree to a Compact of Free Association which would give the United States a third of their land for military purposes, thus breaking their nuclear-free Constitution. I have heard that the day after the murder, the MAAS withdrew its lawsuit because it said that its children were under threat of being abducted by the pro-Compact thugs and that there was no adequate protection for them, so the women had no alternative but to withdraw the lawsuit.

I am angry and deeply concerned that this community under a United Nations trusteeship is living in terror of its lives and its livelihood, and I urgently request the Council to send a United Nations peace-keeping force into Belau, while the Council immediately and thoroughly investigates the situation in this country.

In addition, please urgently enquire further into the legality of what has been happening in Belau and of the United States trustees' methods of trying to

persuade the Belauans to accept the Compact and thus hand over a third of their homeland to the United States military, as well as a harbour for Trident submarines, etc. This would inevitably involve attendant problems of having military people in a foreign land such as prostitution and drugs, in addition to the problems of having people with lots of money from a different culture inevitably causing the islanders to become more and more dependent upon United States imports, etc., thus breaking the terms of the United Nations Trusteeship Agreement. 1/

In the hope that your power may enforce a just solution for the Republic of Belau,

(Signed) Helen TRASK

Notes

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

cc: Chairman and members, Special Committee of 24  
Chairman and members, Fourth Committee of the General Assembly  
President and members, Security Council  
Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, Secretary-General of the United Nations  
Hon. Morris Udall, Chairman of the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee,  
United States House of Representatives  
United States Representative Ron de Lugo, Chairman, House Interior  
Sub-Committee on International and Insular Affairs  
United States Congressman Ron Dellums, Chairman, House Armed Services  
Sub-Committee  
Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Kingdom  
Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern  
Ireland to the United Nations  
Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland  
to the United Nations  
Hon. Santos Olikong, Speaker of the House of Delegates (Belau), Olbiil Era  
Kelulau (OEK)  
President Salii, Koror, Republic of Belau  
Belau Pacific Centre

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