



Trusteeship Council

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PETITION FROM THE CHAIRMAN, NORWICH CITY COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS COMMITTEE, 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)

CITY OF NORWICH

Councillor D. J. Hart
City Hall
Norwich
NR2 1NH

19 October 1987

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

Dear Sir,

I have been asked by the Norwich City Council Environmental Hazards Committee to express deep dismay concerning recent developments in Belau (Palau), which is part of the United States Trust Territory and which comes under United States Administration.

The people of Belau have been forced over again to vote on the Compact of Free Association with the United States. On 4 August, the Belauan Constitution was amended by an illegal process and later, on 21 August, the Compact Agreement was passed.

There have been a number of fire-bombings, personal threats and intimidations to such a degree that a Judge, hearing a lawsuit which questioned the constitutional amendment, actually had to withdraw because of personal threats to his life.

On 6 September, the father of the lawyer who had brought this lawsuit in attempting to maintain the integrity of the Belauan Constitution was murdered whilst guarding his son's office against a possible fire-bomb attack.

The Speaker of the House of Representatives in Belau has stated that he had voted in favour of the Compact because his life was threatened.

The United States is allowing Belau to be torn apart internally and, at times, seems to be fuelling it in order to acquire military rights in Belau.

The City Council urgently requests the United Nations Security Council and the United Nations Trusteeship Council:

- To request the United States Government to honour the Trusteeship Agreement of the Pacific Islands 1947; 1/
- To give time to the people of Belau before any more referenda are allowed so that the divisions within the Belauan community might be healed;
- To offer then the Belauan people a choice between a renegotiated Compact and independence.

We also call on the United States Congress not to implement the Compact of Free Association until constitutional questions are answered and settled and Rubak Bedor's murder is fully investigated.

We urge a renegotiation of the Compact of Free Association in line with the Belauan Constitution.

Yours faithfully,

[Signature illegible]
Chairman
Norwich City Council
Environmental Hazards
Committee

Notes

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