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COMMUNICATION FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, FOURTH NORTHERN
MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE, CONCERNING THE TRUST TERRITORY
OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

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

House of Representatives
FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

22 October 1984

Mr. Javier Pérez de Cuéllar
Secretary General
United Nations
New York, N.Y. 10017

Your Excellency:

I have the honour to transmit herewith House joint resolution No. 24, entitled "Respectfully requesting the Government of Japan to halt permanently its nuclear waste dumping plans in any place in the Pacific Ocean" which was adopted by the House of Representatives, 25 September 1984, by majority vote of the members, a quorum being present, third regular session, Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, 1984.

Respectfully,

(Signed) Daniel O. QUITUGUA
Chief Clerk
House of Representatives

Attachment

THIRD REGULAR SESSION, 1984

A HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

Respectfully requesting the Government of Japan to halt permanently its nuclear waste dumping plans in any place in the Pacific Ocean.

WHEREAS, since 1980, most of the people of the Pacific Islands, through legislative means, collective demonstrations, protesting signatures and peaceful and lawful means, have unitedly expressed their opposition against Japan's nuclear waste dumping plan; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the united opposition of the Pacific Islanders against Japan's nuclear waste dumping plan since 1980, the Science and Technology Agency (STA) of Japan postponed the plan and assured the people of the Pacific nations that Japan would not dump without the "understanding" or "consensus" of the Pacific nations; and

WHEREAS, it has been reported that on 14 August 1984, a spokesman for STA mentioned that the statements regarding "understanding" and "consensus" of the Pacific nations were not official declarations. If true, it would reflect a most unfortunate and unwelcome change of policy, contrary to the assurance given in 1980 to the Pacific nations; and

WHEREAS, the STA change in policy approach impresses the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands as callous and in absolute disregard of the opposition of the Pacific nations to nuclear waste dumping in the Pacific Ocean; and

WHEREAS, STA of Japan has plans to dump nuclear waste in the Pacific Ocean and is waiting only for the approval of the London Dumping Convention in 1985 and disregards the opposition of the Pacific nations; and

WHEREAS, as the London Dumping Convention member countries, with the exception of Nauru and Kiribati, are not Pacific Island nations, the Japanese Government cannot and must not consider that the Japanese Government has a "consensus" of the Pacific nations behind any agreement reached by the London Dumping Convention; and

WHEREAS, the STA change of policy may reflect a signal that the Government of Japan will continue with their Pacific Ocean dumping plan to dump nuclear waste in the Pacific Ocean, in total disregard of international "comity" between developed industrial nations and developing non-industrial nations of the Pacific; and

WHEREAS, the Government of Japan, through STA, has taken deliberate actions to ignore the wishes and livelihood of the people of the Pacific nations, severing the basic ingredient which fosters international "comity" between and among different nations; and

WHEREAS, the Government of Japan should recognize and understand that nuclear waste dumping in the Pacific Ocean poses significant problems and harm to the marine resources and environment of the Pacific Ocean and most probably to fishermen and consumers of marine delicacies as evidenced in part by the sinking in the ocean of a ship containing nuclear materials from France; and

WHEREAS, in the event of any destruction of marine resources and environment caused by nuclear waste dumping, the Government of Japan should take notice that an outcry will be heard and litigation may be initiated in the proper forum of the courts of Japan, the United States of America and the International Court of Justice under the auspices of the United Nations; and

WHEREAS, to this date, the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands continue to oppose nuclear waste dumping in the Pacific Ocean and support the united stance of the community of Pacific nations against nuclear waste dumping in the Pacific Ocean; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives, Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, third regular session, 1984, the Senate concurring, that on behalf of the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, we profoundly express and convey to the Government of Japan that the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands continues to oppose any nuclear waste dumping in the Pacific Ocean by any nation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no matter what kind of resolution is reached by the member countries of the London Dumping Convention in 1985, the Commonwealth will continue to demand unconditional abandonment of any plan to permit nuclear waste dumping or subseabed burial in the oceans of the world; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the new policy of the Science and Technology Agency of the Government of Japan is a betrayal of their promises to the people of the Commonwealth and that any nuclear waste dumping by the Government of Japan would constitute grave international injustice that could undermine the friendly relations between the Commonwealth and Japan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will loudly dissent and will litigate in the courts of Japan, the United States and the International Court of Justice of the United Nations, if necessary, against any nation that dumps nuclear waste in the Pacific Ocean; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate shall certify and the House Clerk and the Senate Legislative Secretary shall attest to the adoption of this resolution and thereafter transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Prime Minister of the Japanese Government, Hon. Yasuhiro Nakasone; the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Japanese Government, Hon. Shintaro Abe; the Secretary-General of the United Nations; the Secretary of State of the United States of America; the Governor of Guam; the President of the Federated States of Micronesia; the President of the Republic of Belau; the President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands; the Director of the Science and Technology Agency of Japan and of the Atomic Energy

Committee, Hon. Michiyuki Isurugi; the Secretary-General of the London Dumping Convention; the Minister of International Trade and Industry of the Japanese Government, Hon. Hikosaburo Okonogi; the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Hon. Shinjiro Yamamura; the National Federation of Fishermen's Co-operative Association, the Director of Zengyoren, Hon. Kyuichi Miyahara; the Secretary General of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development and the Nuclear Energy Agency (OECD/NEA), Hon. Ian Williams; Commonwealth Governor Pedro P. Tenorio; and Washington representative Froilan C. Tenorio.

Adopted: 25 September 1984

(Signed) Vicente M. SABLAN
Speaker of the House

(Signed) Ponciano C. RASA
President of the Senate

ATTESTED:

(Signed) Daniel O. QUITUGUA
House Clerk

(Signed) Benjamin T. MANGLONA
Senate Legislative Secretary
