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PETITION FROM S. RAWSON ON BEHALF OF THE EASTERN SUBURBS  
PEACE GROUP, NEW ZEALAND, 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)

21 La Trobe Street  
Pakuranga  
Auckland  
New Zealand

1 September 1987

The Secretary-General  
United Nations Trusteeship Council  
New York  
N. Y. 10017, United States

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Eastern Suburbs Peace Group, New Zealand, to protest the way in which the country of Belau has been forced to accept the Compact of Free Association with the United States only by dropping its anti-nuclear Constitution. We are concerned that the methods involved in the termination of the United States trusteeship do not meet the United Nations standards on decolonization.

The little country of Belau has been forced to have countless referenda (at least nine) to override its nuclear-free Constitution before it could gain a limited degree of self-determination. The economy of the country is in a parlous state, especially weighted down by the borrowing for a \$32 million power plant which apparently will serve a future United States military base on the island and is far too big for the ordinary needs of the citizens. The offer of \$1,000 million in the Compact of Free Association is a bribe which the Government of Saliu was unable to resist.

Many nations in the Pacific are watching helplessly as Belau backs down to economic and recently violent physical pressures from the United States to accept the Compact.

We, in New Zealand, look to the United Nations Trusteeship Council to ensure that Belau acquires self-determination plus the right to maintain its nuclear-free Constitution. The credibility of the United Nations and all the claims made by the United States about wanting disarmament are at stake if nothing is done to help this tiny nation achieve the independence and nuclear-freedom it so clearly desires.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) S. RAWSON  
Eastern Suburbs Peace Group

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