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PETITION FROM MR. JOHN R. COBB CONCERNING THE TRUST
TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

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rules of procedure of the Trusteeship Council)

98 Wilbur Street
Newark, DE. 19711

22 January 1983*

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

Dear Sir:

In December 1982, I first learned about a tiny island in the Pacific named Palau. The Republic of Palau, along with several other Micronesian islands, is included in a Trust Territory that is administered by our country under mandate of the United Nations. When this trusteeship was granted by the United Nations it was specified that our country would contribute towards Palau's economic, social and political independence. The type of assistance our country is now trying to provide is at odds with the stated needs of Palau.

The Republic of Palau is being solicited to accept a "compact of free association" with the United States. This would terminate the Trusteeship and in its place provide Palau with limited self-rule. Exceptions to this self-rule would be in the areas of defence and foreign affairs. As currently understood, the compact will provide for a 50-year military alliance with the United States and permanent denial of military access to any third nation. The land use agreements vary from occasional use of 30,000 acres to exclusive use of 2,000 acres with joint use of existing ports during the 50-year term of the compact. In return, our Government has pledged an unspecified amount of funding to the Government of Palau during the first 15 years of the compact.

* Received on 29 April 1983.

The original intent of the compact was for it to serve during an interim relationship between our country and Palau before it achieves its independence. The compact was first meant to last 15 years with termination possible by either party. Aside from the lengthening of this time period, the Republic of Palau is being pressured to allow nuclear weapons, bombs, vessels and military bases on the island. The current compact of free association is a second attempt by our Government to nullify the nuclear-free stipulations of Palau's Constitution. The first one failed in 1979. I understand the importance of maintaining our national security abroad to ensure our best interests; however, I do not agree with the manner in which our Government is seeking to impose itself on the Republic of Palau. Without the clear understanding and consent of the Palauan people, our Government will be undertaking no less than the subjugation of this island. Is a full scale military base really a justified need or might a smaller intelligence gathering station be of greater use to our country? This alternative would cost less and perhaps be a more amicable solution to the people of Palau.

On 10 February 1983 the existing compact will be voted on by the Palauan people. A so-called "political education" is now taking place on the island that is being financed with \$US 315,000 of direct funding by our Government. The people of Palau are being told that the only practical course to take is to accept the compact under our Government's terms. If the compact is approved it will go to both houses of Congress where it is expected to take about six months to pass. It would then take effect on 1 October 1983. As stated by Moses Y. Uludong, Senator of Palau, "Our organization (Tia Beluad) fights for liberation and independence of our country, for freedom from nuclear and other military weapons, and for a peaceful world. We want to be free as a people and as a country. We further want to have close and friendly relations with American people without allowing our lands and waters to be used for military purposes." Thank you for your time and consideration of this aspect of our nation's foreign policy.

With sincerity for a peaceful world,

(Signed) John P. COBB
Resident of Oregon
Currently in Delaware
