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JUN 2 1983

Distr.
GENERAL

T/PET.10/292
26 May 1983

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

PETITION FROM MS. ALICE BARNES 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)

5009 San Joaquin Drive
San Diego, Calif. 92109

22 May 1983

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

Dear Sir,

In four separate plebiscites in as many years, the Palauans have consistently refused to approve United States military plans for their islands.

The United States State Department, despite this popular rejection of its nuclear plans for Palau embodied in the compact of free association, has declared that the Palau Government must "find an acceptable method of reconciling" its nuclear-free Constitution with the compact.

The international law expert Roger Clark writes "The United States having acquiesced in, or perhaps even insisted upon, the way in which the issue was presented to the voters, is surely bound by the results". 1/ Moreover, said Professor Clark, the United States and Palau Governments cannot override the Constitution "an unconstitutional treaty is just that - unconstitutional."

There are many witnesses to the health and cultural damage to the people of the Marshall Islands from nuclear testing in the Pacific. United States Trusteeship obligations have been ignored and Marshallese well-being sacrificed in the name of United States "national defence interests".

The issues of United States interference in Palau's self-determination process should be brought into the international arena. The United States must feel pressured to respect the right of the Palauan people to self-determine their future free of nuclear weapons.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Alice BARNES

cc: Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick, United Nations
Fred Zeder, Ambassador, State Department

Notes

1/ See T/PET.10/265, annex.
