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PETITION FROM MR. DAVID PURNELL, HONORARY SECRETARY, AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL  
OF CHURCHES, COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, CONCERNING THE TRUST  
TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

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AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES  
Commission on International Affairs

P.O. Box 67,  
O'Connor, ACT  
Australia  
3 July 1980

The President,  
United Nations Trusteeship Council  
United Nations Plaza  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Sir or Madam,

On behalf of the Commission on International Affairs I am writing to express the hope that the people of Palau in Micronesia will be given every assistance to exercise a free decision concerning their constitution.

Members of this Commission have been disturbed by reports of undue pressure being applied (especially by the United States of America and Japan) to obtain a constitution which would allow foreign military and economic interests to be asserted against the wishes of the Palauan people. It is important that every effort be made to give the Palauans control over their own affairs rather than make them dependent upon foreign patronage. The proposed constitution would appear to be a way of achieving this while still leaving room for negotiations with foreign interests over particular requests for use of land and resources.

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English

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It would be helpful if you would send the Commission any relevant information and comments on this serious situation.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) David PURNELL  
Honorary Secretary

cc: Department of Foreign Affairs, Canberra

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