



Trusteeship Council

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PETITION FROM MR. LAWRENCE H. SCHLANG, VICE-PRESIDENT, GOVERNMENT
AFFAIRS, CONTINENTAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION, 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)

8605 Dry Dock Road
Reno, Nevada 89511
4 September 1981

The Honourable Marrack I. Goulding
President, Trusteeship Council
United Nations
New York, N.Y. 10017

Dear Mr. President:

As the representative of the Continental Airlines and Air Micronesia employees working in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, I must again convey to you the misgivings of these workers concerning their employment and the continuation of commercial airline service within the Trust Territory. 1/ These concerns are based on a recent regulatory decision of the United States Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) which could adversely impact on the means of transportation and the economic advancement of the people of the entire region.

In its recommended decision to the President of the United States, CAB did little to assure the long term continuation of commercial airline service in Micronesia. The Board agreed to provide "essential air service" protection to the Pacific Island communities. Since the United States, as the Administering Authority for these islands, is legally tasked under its international treaty obligations to the United Nations to "promote the economic advancement and self-sufficiency of the inhabitants", providing minimum essential air service, by its very definition, would place the United States in jeopardy of violating its

1/ See T/PV.1510.

treaty obligations should the President of the United States approve the recommended CAB decision. These communities within the Trust Territory are totally dependent upon commercial airline service for inter-island and inter-regional transportation. Severance or diminution of these links according to Acting High Commissioner Daniel High would "put [Micronesia] back 15 years".

The acquiring owner of the Air Micronesia route system which, incidentally has the exclusive rights to serve the Trust Territory, has stated that it would consult CAB before it made more than "minor" changes to its service in the region and would find a replacement carrier before it abandoned service on the routes. Such guarantees provide little solace for the citizens of the region, as no United States carrier has applied to serve these routes since Continental Airlines formed Air Micronesia 13 years ago. This lack of commitment on the part of the acquiring carrier has created serious misgivings in the minds of the Air Micronesia employees as to their livelihood, and among the more than 10,000 Micronesian citizens who have invested their money in Air Micronesia and the United Micronesia Development Association, a joint venture owner with Continental Airlines in the Air Micronesia operation.

It would be appreciated if the Trusteeship Council, in its capacity as the supervisory agency of the Administering Authority, conveyed the apprehension and misgivings of the employees of Air Micronesia, the Micronesian citizens who have invested their savings in this worthwhile venture in economic self-improvement, and the government leaders of the Micronesian communities to the Government of the United States. The Administering Authority should be aware of the concern of the world community in the questionable wisdom of the recommended CAB decision and its potential for economic disaster to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

I have taken the liberty to attach a number of documents, 2/ most of which are in the public record or have been sent to me by the leaders of the Pacific Island communities who share my concern in this matter.

All of us who share the burden of assuring the well-being of the people of the Pacific Basin, whether in Government or commerce, have a duty to apprise the Administering Authority of the serious ramifications of the ill considered CAB recommended decision, especially as it impacts on the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands whose people are still wards of the United Nations.

2/ The documents have been placed in the files of the Secretariat and are available to members of the Council for consultation.

Again, I thank you for your courtesy, consideration and attention to this matter of grave importance to the people of Micronesia. It should be of similar import to the members of the Trusteeship Council and all the members of the community of nations.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Lawrence H. SCHLANG
Vice President, Government Affairs
Continental Employees Association
