



Trusteeship Council

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PETITION FROM MS. MARIT HEGGE 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)

28 Everton Road
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Sheffield S11 8RY
United Kingdom

28 April 1988

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

Dear Madam,

As an Australian citizen and British resident, I wish to protest against the pressures that are being placed on the citizens of Belau by the United States Government to accept a "Compact of Free Association" which is in direct contravention of their Constitution, a Constitution which has been continuously upheld by a majority of the Belauan population of 15,000 since 1979.

The Belauan people have stated their wish to have an exclusive economic zone of 200 miles around their islands and to be free of militarization and the effects of nuclear storage, testing and waste dumping in their region. Most of all the Belauan people wish to be an autonomous people, free from interference from the East or the West, and to decide their own future development.

The United States has not complied with its trusteeship responsibilities under the Trusteeship Agreement 1/ and the Declaration on decolonization. Instead, they have beggared the Belauan economy through such means as the International Power Systems, Ltd. (IPSECO) power project; have imposed inappropriate "development" projects, United States life-style and culture; and [have] failed to uphold

traditional Belauan governmental structures based on consensus decisions and on the hereditary matriarchy. The United States now also plans, via the Compact of Free Association, to establish huge military facilities which would involve nuclear weaponry and cover one third of the Belauan territory, effectively destroying Belauan culture and life-style. Is this the sort of "trusteeship" which the United Nations advocates?

I urge the United Nations to review the management practice of its trusteeship, to continue support for the Belauan people in a non-exploitative fashion until such a time as they gain full economic autonomy and to uphold the majority-supported Belauan Constitution.

I also wish to protest against the recent harassment and intimidation of Belauan citizens who oppose the Compact of Free Association and, in particular, the murder of Mr. Bedor Bins. Such means are being used to force the Belauans to reject the conditions of their Constitution and, in particular, the provision of the 75 per cent majority needed to accept any new Compact. Any vote which is made under such conditions of intimidation cannot be upheld by a court which claims to represent a democratic nation.

The intimidation of a small island nation of 15,000 persons without access to huge financial and technological resources is a slur on the integrity of the United Nations and on the United States of America which administers this nation's interests.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) Marit HEGGE

Notes

1/ Trusteeship Agreement for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands
(United Nations publication, Sales No. 1957.VI.A.1).
