



Trusteeship Council

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PETITION FROM MRS. W. HEESTERMAN-VAN DER MAEN AND
A. R. G. HEESTERMAN 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)

23 Bryony Rd.
Birmingham
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30 April 1988

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

Dear Sir,

We want to draw your attention to the plight of the Micronesian island republic of Palau, which is being pressurized into accepting the United States proposals for the adoption of the "Compact of Free Association".

The provisions of this proposed treaty, which are most objectionable to many Palauans, are the following:

1. The unprecedented right of a foreign Government, the United States Government, to take possession of Palauan property within 60 days of demanding this;
2. The breach of the provision to remain a nuclear-free State, which is enshrined in the Palauan Constitution.

We request the United Nations Trusteeship Council to ensure that Palau's constitutional right to refuse to agree to the requests of the United States of America be safeguarded, enabling it to continue to adhere to its nuclear-free Constitution.

We also request the Council to urge the United States to honour its responsibilities towards Palau under the Trusteeship Agreement 1/ and the Declaration on decolonization, enabling the island State to develop to full independence.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) Mrs. W. HEESTERMAN-VAN DER MAEN

A. R. G. HEESTERMAN

Notes

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