



Trusteeship Council

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COMMUNICATION FROM MR. BALERIO U. PEDRO CONCERNING
THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

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of procedure of the Trusteeship Council)

Koror State
Republic of Palau 96940

13 April 1987

The Editor
Pacific Daily News

Dear Mr. Editor,

May I comment on what appeared on the front page of the Pacific Daily News of 12 March 1987 concerning the Compact: "'The United States will continue to refuse to renegotiate the Palau Compact of Free Association ...' Jim Berg told the Palauan leaders when he visited the islands this week".

First of all, I'm sure Mr. Berg speaks for the Reagan Administration and also the Republican Party, but not necessarily for the Democratic Party which I predict will win next year's presidential election. I'm optimistic about the Democrats since they are more concerned and flexible about the common people and the underdog, like the Palauan people. That is why I believe there will be a renegotiation with the Democrats when they take over the White House next year.

Secondly, the present United States Administration is negligent and shrewdly disregards the basic principle of the United Nations Trusteeship Agreement 1/ which guarantees the Palauan people the RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION. The United States, a trustee, is entrusted with complying, and is obligated by the United Nations to comply, with this basic right of the Palauan people. Now the Palauan people have expressed their RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION through their Constitution by approving it by 92 per cent. Hence, the United States must not, under the United Nations Trusteeship Agreement, conflict or interfere with the Palauan Constitution by

putting nuclear provisions in the Compact, thereby influencing the Palauan voters to reject it four times in the referenda; in the last two, the affirmative votes fell from 72 per cent to 65 per cent, far short of the 75 per cent required by the Constitution of the young Republic. The United States must be reminded that the Palauan political status is at stake, as well as the ultimate purpose of the negotiation, and the United States must comply with Palau's terms, her Constitution, and not vice versa, i.e., it is not for Palau to comply with United States terms. So to remedy the impasse, the United States must remove the nuclear provisions in the Compact to make it in harmony with Palau's Constitution.

If the United States cannot give us liberty for our Constitution, then give us death!

Liberty for Palau,

(Signed) Balerio U. PEDRO

cc: United States Democratic Party

Delegates of the Olbiil Era Kelulau
(Palau National Congress) and Senators

Organization for Compact Improvement

Office of Freely Associated State Affairs

Delegate Ron de Luge

United Nations Trusteeship Council

Notes

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