

UNITED NATIONS TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL



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PETITION FROM MR. TATAKIO G. CHUTARO AND 339 OTHERS
FROM THE ISLAND OF MILI, MARSHALL ISLANDS, CONCERNING
THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS 1/

(Circulated in accordance with rule 85, paragraph 1, of the rules of
procedure of the Trusteeship Council)

Dear United Nation

The american has not been bad to the people of Mili. After the war he not drop more bomb on us. He not make us do the thing that we not want to. He almost make us do nothing. We like the american but we still want him to treat us fair like he said after the war and like the United Nation told him to. He will we think help us now like he maybe not do in the past. We have heard the story about the election that the american is going to have to make us decide the future of Micronesia. When the american will help us now we probably will not vote for the independence and will want him to keep Micronesia.

We are the people of Mili and we are proud and happy about it. We write this letter to the american to tell him how we feel and what we think he should do for us. We do not look for the trouble but we just want what is fair. We don't have the congressmans in Washington.

We write this letter in the Marshallese language because it is our language and because we are marshallese. We would write it in the english language but we have not the education to do it very good. Maybe our little kids will learn to speak the english language well when they get a good school and good teacher. We know that the High Commissioner and the District Administrator probably do not know marshallese so we will try to translate the letter into the english language so they will understand better. We know that they will also not know how bad the island is torn up or how much we need help in our life since both of them the District Administrator and the High Commissioner have never come here. That what this letter is to tell them.

1/ The present petition, signed by Mr. Tatakio G. Chutaro and 339 others, was received by the Secretariat post-marked 26 May 1969.

We make a list of all the fair things we ask the american to do to help us. We will not tell you the list we make.

1. We have heard that the United Nations is going to talk to the High Commissioner about the stuff the american is do for us. We ask you to ask him why the times in Mili is so hard and why he never clean up the mess of bombs and explosions and holes and everything and why our children cannot go to school and learn anything. Many times we don't have the school at all and still our kids do not know the english language. There is never any chance for them to go to high schools and colleges. You will please ask him. Ask him why it is more than three months sometimes before the ship come and we run out of food and feel sick and can do no work or nothing. The american destroy and devastation our land in the war and never come back. Will you please ask him about Mili and about the Mili people.

2. We know that you people from the United Nations have visit the Marshall Island but you never have saw Mili. We think that when you see Ebeye and Majoro and the other place where the marshalllese people is better that you don't know how we live here. We only want you to know that if you visit us you will make our hearts feel good and we will welcome you as brothers and like people from our own families. We will welcome you from our heart. We beg you to come. This is the only way you can understand us and our ways of life. We ask you to come now and not in ten years or even in only one year. We beg that you come now.

3. Another thing we wonder about. We read in the Newsweek magazine about the american being so worry about the people being with so much trouble in Biafra, Nigeria, Indian, and China. But when we read about Micronesia in the Nation Geographic and some other all we read about is how nice Micronesia is. Why doesn't the american sent out some magazine man to tell about how the people live and about how we have many promises but nothing else ever. We have many kids on Mili with the worm and the ant that live in the stomach and this is even bad from here on Ujelang. Why don't they ever tell the story about this. The american say he care about all these other people in the foreign lands but he don't seem to care much about the people in his own trust territory.

4. The american blow up all our roads in the war and not build us new ones. If we were not in his trust territory maybe he would. The Mili people did not fight the american in the war. Why have they not fix it up like the colonel said.

5. The american say that the congress does not have the budget to give us any help. We want him to know that is the american people that are not helping us and not only the congress. The United Nations seems to far away.

6. Why does the american not pick up the bomb he drop in the war. We worried that the small kids will be hurt by the bomb lying everywhere. Already some men have been hurt bad by the bomb and one man has been killed.

7. The two Peace Corps is the only place we have radio now. If we have a medical emergency in any other place than those two and the weather is bad at all there is no way to ask for the help. We would not have any radio if the Peace Corps have not come to Mili. Marshallese get sick also just like the american. Are americans more valuable than marshallese?

8. Some time no kids that graduate from our elementary school can go to High School. The United Nations said the american will give us education. Why can all of the kids that graduate go to high school free just like in the states.

9. We need the agriculture programme to plant all the plants the american blew up in the war after he fix all the bomb holes.

10. It is too late now for all the kids that have grown up since the war to get the education that he should have owed. It is too late to get back all the coconut and breadfruits and stuff that was blown up and not fixed and all the gardens that we could not make and all the people that have got sick and die because there was no help. No pile of money can ever pay us back for what we have lost. We are proud and no one can pay us for what they steal. Marshallese custom. But we ask for fair payment now to help build a future that will be better for the small kids. We think ten million dollars is a fair reparation.

Now you know how we feel. Please to answer this letter before thirty days after you get it. Please tell us whether you will do for us the fair things we ask. Please hurry and answer before the thirty days. We have waited almost twenty-four years now and that is very very much too long.

We will sign our names now.

284 people signed. More would have signed but we could not see them. The atoll council passed this with nobody voting against it.

(Signed) Tatakio G. CHUTARO and
339 others
