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THIRD CONGRESS, 1969  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 18  
S.D. 1. S.D. 2

A SENATE RESOLUTION

Requesting the United Nations to reconsider the legal and political status of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

WHEREAS, on April 2, 1947, the United Nations Security Council by unanimous vote, and on July 18, 1947, the United States Senate did approve a Trusteeship Agreement between the United States and the United Nations regarding the administration of the islands, exclusive of Guam, known collectively as Micronesia; and

WHEREAS, by the acceptance of this Agreement, the United States bound itself to act in accordance with the letter and spirit of the United Nations Charter, the International Trusteeship System, and the Trusteeship Agreement itself; and

WHEREAS, the said Charter, System, and Agreement demanded of the United States, and of all other signees, certain obligations, which the United States did freely and of its own accord, take upon itself in regard to the islands of Micronesia, hereinafter referred to as the Trust Territory; and

WHEREAS, under the Trusteeship Agreement the United States undertook to "foster the development of such political institutions as are suited to the trust territory" and to "promote the development of the inhabitants of the trust territory toward self-government or independence," according to the "freely expressed wishes of the people concerned," and, to these ends, to give the inhabitants a progressively increasing share in the administrative services of the Trust Territory, to develop their participation in government, and to give due recognition to the customs of the inhabitants; and

WHEREAS, under the said Agreement, the United States undertook to "promote the economic advancement and self-sufficiency of the inhabitants," and, to this end, to regulate the use of natural resources, to encourage the development of fisheries, agriculture, and industry, to improve transportation and communication facilities, and to protect the inhabitants against the loss of their lands and resources; and

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WHEREAS, under the said Agreement, the United States undertook to "promote the social advancement of the inhabitants," and to this end, to protect the rights and fundamental freedoms of the inhabitants without discrimination, to protect the health of the inhabitants, to control the traffic in arms and ammunition, dangerous drugs, and alcoholic beverages, and to protect the inhabitants against other social abuses; and

WHEREAS, under the said Agreement, the United States undertook to "promote the educational advancement of the inhabitants," and, to this end, to establish a general system of elementary education, to facilitate the vocational and cultural advancement of the population; and to encourage qualified students to pursue higher education, including professional education; and

WHEREAS, the International Trusteeship System (Article 73 of the United Nations Charter) requires the United States to "promote to the utmost" the well-being of the inhabitants; and

WHEREAS, the Trusteeship System (Article 76a of the Charter) requires the administration of the Trust Territory in such a way as to further international peace and security; and

WHEREAS, the Trusteeship System (Article 76c) requires administration in such a way as to "encourage respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion, and to encourage recognition of the inter-dependence of the peoples of the world; and

WHEREAS, the Trusteeship System (Article 76d) requires the administering authority (the United States, in this case) to "ensure equal treatment in social, economic, and commercial matters for all Members of the United Nations and their nationals;" and

WHEREAS, the United States has attempted to transplant in the Trust Territory a system of government far too closely resembling its own to be relevant to the actual political conditions of Micronesia; and

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WHEREAS, the United States, in considering political alternatives for the Trust Territory, has consistently refused to discuss seriously the possibilities of independence or alliance with a country other than the United States, apparently taking for granted a continued association with itself, whether the Micronesian peoples desire this or not; and

WHEREAS, the United States has, for over twenty years, deferred any program of political education for the inhabitants; and

WHEREAS, the number of Micronesians in policy-making positions in the administration is, after twenty-one years, distressingly small; and

WHEREAS, regardless of the "practical necessity" of such action, so many Congress of Micronesia bills are vetoed annually as to constitute a major thwarting of the will of the inhabitants, bringing to naught their already limited participation in government; and

WHEREAS, the Micronesian people have no voice in the selection of members of the judiciary branch, of the High Commissioner or even of district administrators; and

WHEREAS, the district and territorial administrative systems impose upon the Micronesian peoples a system of government totally alien to their respective cultures; and

WHEREAS, to date there has been no significant development of either fisheries or industries in the Trust Territory; and

WHEREAS, the people of Kwajalein were forced to surrender on ninety-nine year lease approximately seven hundred fifty acres of land in return for seven hundred fifty thousand dollars, or about ten dollars per acre per year in an area where land is scarce and therefore precious beyond the comprehension of outsiders; and

WHEREAS, the islands of Roi-Namur in Kwajalein Atoll were expropriated without compensation; and

WHEREAS, the people of Eniwetok and Bikini surrendered their land for a nominal cash fee plus a larger amount held in trust, from which the people in question are permitted to receive only the interest of a few dollars per person per year; and

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WHEREAS, this trust fund was granted with the provision that it could be invested only in United States Government securities, meaning that, with inflation, the United States Government got the use of Eniwetok and Bikini for almost no cost to itself, and at the cost of great hardship and suffering to the former residents of those atolls; and

WHEREAS, the atolls of Eniwetok and Bikini were used for the detonation of several series of nuclear and thermonuclear test explosions, all with disastrous results to the atolls themselves and to the animal and plant life, both land and marine; and

WHEREAS, the Micronesian people do not believe that such explosions are consistent with the maintenance of international peace and security; and

WHEREAS, communication remains, for the most part, slow and inadequate; and

WHEREAS, firearms and ammunition are freely available in most areas to those who can afford them; and

WHEREAS, liquor control laws are inadequately enforced; and

WHEREAS, Micronesians suffer from discriminatory wage scales which permit an indigenous District Administrator to earn less than an American contract high school teacher, strictly on the basis of his national origin; and

WHEREAS, most Micronesians still live in inadequate housing, and, even in the district centers, without electricity, running water, or adequate sanitation; and

WHEREAS, on the islands of Kwajalein Atoll, the most rigid form of segregation is practiced, in which Micronesians are not permitted to live on the same islands as Americans, to shop in Global Associates' stores, or even to take home with them anything of any value which Americans might freely give them; and

WHEREAS, some district hospitals remain inadequately and/or incompetently staffed; and

WHEREAS, provisions for the health of Micronesians generally are so bad as to render the population highly susceptible to periodic epidemics of hepatitis, measles, and other diseases; and

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WHEREAS, while there is a general system of elementary education within the meaning of the Agreement, it is, in many areas, inadequately or incompetently staffed, and poorly supplied; and

WHEREAS, the system of secondary education, such as it is, is a very recent innovation in the Trust Territory, and in many areas still lacks even basic curriculum planning; and

WHEREAS, excepting a handful of Micronesian doctors, the vocational advancement of the populace has not been advanced at all; and

WHEREAS, far from promoting cultural advancement of Micronesians, the administering authority has managed to downgrade and even virtually destroy the native culture in certain areas, replacing it with low-grade American mass culture; and

WHEREAS, it is difficult to see how the pursuit of higher education has been greatly encouraged by the veto of a two hundred thousand dollar scholarship bill; and

WHEREAS, there is no professional or college-level training institution in the Trust Territory after twenty-one years of United States administration; and

WHEREAS, the equal treatment which all other members of the United Nations and their nationals receive has been the systematic prohibition of entry into the Trust Territory; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Third Congress of Micronesia, First Regular Session, 1969, that the manifestly unequal treatment which the Micronesian peoples receive even in their own homelands is positively destructive of the respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms which the United States under Article 76c of the United Nations Charter, is required to promote; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it is the sense of the Senate, Congress of Micronesia, that no reasonable man could maintain that the United States has acted to "promote to the utmost" the well-being of the inhabitants, as it is required to do under Article 73 of the United Nations Charter; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate, Congress of Micronesia, hereby respectfully petitions the United Nations Trusteeship Council to commission a thorough investigation into the performance or non-performance of the United States Government in the fulfillment of its obligations under the United Nations Charter and the Trusteeship Agreement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate, Congress of Micronesia, hereby respectfully petitions the United Nations Security Council, under Article 83 of the Charter, to review the entire basis for continuation of the United States' presence in Micronesia, with a view to revision or abolition of the Trusteeship Agreement, as may be necessary to promote to the utmost the well-being of Micronesians; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, failing action by the Security Council, the United Nations General Assembly, under Articles 10, 12, 13, 14 and 16 of the United Nations Charter, is hereby petitioned to review the performance of the United States, as above; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, upon the passage by the Senate, Congress of Micronesia, copies of this Resolution shall be sent to all interested persons and agencies including but not limited to the Secretary General of the United Nations, all member delegations of the Security Council of the United Nations, all Chairmen of all delegations to the United Nations, the President of the United States, all members of the United States Senate and House Committees on Interior and Insular Affairs, members of the United States Senate and House Foreign Relations Committees, the Secretary of the Interior and the High Commissioner.

Adopted January 27, 1969

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