

THIRD CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

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A SENATE RESOLUTION

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

Offered by Senator Anata Kabua

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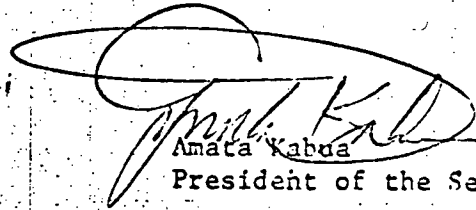
Victorio Uherbelau

Victorio Uherbelau
Clerk of the Senate

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THE SENATE OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA

We hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Senate of the Congress of Micronesia, Third Congress, First Regular Session in January, 1969.



Amata Kabua
President of the Senate



Victorio Uherbelau
Clerk of the Senate

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A SENATE RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

15 WHEREAS, under the Trusteeship Agreement the United States
16 undertook to "foster the development of such political institu-
17 tions as are suited to the trust territory" and to "promote the
18 development of the inhabitants of the trust territory toward
19 self-government or independence," according to the "freely ex-
20 pressed wishes of the people concerned," and, to these ends, to
21 give the inhabitants a progressively increasing share in the
22 administrative services of the Trust Territory, to develop their
23 participation in government, and to give due recognition to the
24 customs of the inhabitants; and

1 to "promote the economic advancement and self-sufficiency of the
2 inhabitants," and, to this end, to regulate the use of natural
3 resources, to encourage the development of fisheries, agri-
4 culture, and industry, to improve transportation and communication
5 facilities, and to protect the inhabitants against the loss of
6 their lands and resources; and

7 WHEREAS, under the said Agreement, the United States under-
8 took to "promote the social advancement of the inhabitants," and
9 to this end, to protect the rights and fundamental freedoms of
10 the inhabitants without discrimination, to protect the health of
11 the inhabitants, to control the traffic in arms and ammunition,
12 dangerous drugs, and alcoholic beverages, and to protect the
13 inhabitants against other social abuses; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 WHEREAS, regardless of the "practical necessity" of such action,

*and now appears to be done
now in order to be done
before the end of the year
for 1972*

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1 so many Congress of Micronesia bills are vetoed annually as to
2 constitute a major thwarting of the will of the inhabitants,
3 bringing to naught their already limited participation in
4 government; and

5 WHEREAS, the Micronesian people have no voice in the selec-
6 tion of members of the judiciary branch, of the High Commissioner
7 or even of district administrators; and

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

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

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

18 WHEREAS, the islands of Fof-i-lamur in Kwajalein Atoll were
19 expropriated without compensation; and

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

24 WHEREAS, this trust fund was granted with the provision that
25 it could be invested only in United States Government securities,

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1 meaning that, with inflation, the United States Government got
 2 the use of Eniwetok and Bikini for almost no cost to itself, and
 3 at the cost of great hardship and suffering to the former resi-
 4 dents of those atolls; and

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

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

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

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

16 WHEREAS, liquor control laws are inadequately enforced; and

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

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

24 WHEREAS, on the islands of Kwajalein Atoll, the most rigid
 25 form of segregation is practiced, in which Micronesians are not

1 permitted to ~~live on the same islands as Americans~~ to shop in
2 Global Associates' stores, or even to take home with them any-
3 thing of any value which Americans might freely give them; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 WHEREAS, there is no professional or college-level training

1 institution in the Trust Territory after twenty-one years of
2 United States administration; and

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

6 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Third Congress of Micro-
7 nesia, First Regular Session, 1969, that the manifestly unequal
8 treatment which the Micronesian peoples receive even in their
9 own homelands is positively destructive of the respect for human
10 rights and for fundamental freedoms which the United States under
11 Article 75c of the United Nations Charter, is required to promote; and

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

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate, Congress of Microne-
18 sia, hereby respectfully petitions the United Nations Trusteeship
19 Council to commission a thorough investigation into the performance
20 or non-performance of the United States Government in the fulfill-
21 ment of its obligations under the United Nations Charter and the
22 Trusteeship Agreement; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate, Congress of Micro-
24 nesia, hereby respectfully petitions the United Nations Security
25 Council, under Article 83 of the Charter, to review the entire





1 basis for continuation of the United States presence in Micro-
 2 nesia, with a view to revision or abolition of the Trusteeship
 3 Agreement, as may be necessary to promote to the utmost the well-
 4 being of Micronesians; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, failing action by the Security
 6 Council, the United Nations General Assembly, under Articles 10,
 7 12, 13, 14 and 16 of the United Nations Charter, is hereby peti-
 8 tioned to review the performance of the United States, as above; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, upon the passage by the Senate,
 10 Congress of Micronesia, copies of this Resolution shall be sent
 11 to all interested persons and agencies [including but not limited
 12 to the Secretary General of the United Nations, all member delega-
 13 tions of the Security Council of the United Nations, all Chairmen
 14 of all delegations to the United Nations, the President of the
 15 United States, all members of the United States Senate and House
 16 Committees on Interior and Insular Affairs, members of the United
 17 States Senate and House Foreign Relations Committees, the Secretary
 18 of the Interior and the High Commissioner.]

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 20 Adopted January 27, 1969

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