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3RD. MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

RESOLUTION NO. 18-1969

INTRODUCED BY HON. DANIEL T. MUNA, SAIPAN

A RESOLUTION RELATIVE TO RESPECTFULLY MEMORIALIZING
AND REQUESTING THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL OF THE
UNITED NATIONS TO CAUSE AN INVESTIGATION OF THE
SUPPRESSION OF FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AND SPEECH IN
THE MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT

WHEREAS, under the Bill of Rights of the Trust Territory Code, inhabitants of the Trust Territory are guaranteed freedom of religion, speech, press, right of assembly, and petition; and

WHEREAS, in the establishment of the International Trusteeship System, the United Nations recognizes the need to respect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the inhabitants of the Trust Territory and obligated the administering authority under Article 76, Chapter XII of the International Trusteeship System; and

WHEREAS, the Administering Authority, acting through the office of the High Commissioner, has recently violated the basic and fundamental freedom of the press by serving notice to confiscate issues of the "MICRONESIAN FREE PRESS", a private independent newspaper that exposes government inefficiency, corruption, and mismanagement; and

WHEREAS, the purported basis of this threat of confiscation was the bringing in of the newspapers from the printer on Guam without an import license, while the necessity of printing the newspaper on Guam because the only printing shop on Saipan is government-owned and that printing shop accepts all private printing jobs except the "MICRONESIAN FREE PRESS"; and

WHEREAS, the attempt to suppress freedom of the press is manifested as scores of newspapers, magazines, and periodicals written and printed outside the Trust Territory are brought into Saipan and the editors and publishers are not required to obtain an import license; and

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WHEREAS, this resolution is not intended and should not be taken as this Legislature being in favour or against, either directly or indirectly, of articles appearing in the "MICRONESIAN FREE PRESS", but simply feel duty-bound to call attention to this dangerous practice that strikes at our fundamental freedoms;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the 3rd Mariana Islands District Legislature that the Trusteeship Council of the United Nations be and hereby is respectfully memorialized and requested to cause an investigation of the suppression of the freedom of the press and speech in the Mariana Islands District.

PASSED BY THE 3RD. MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE FEBRUARY 25, 1969

(Signed) VINCENTE H. SANTOS
President

(Signed) DANIEL T. MUNA
Legislative Secretary

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