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SIXTH GUAM LEGISLATURE
TERRITORY OF GUAM
AGANA, GUAM
U.S.A.

A. B. WOH PAT
Speaker

October 5, 1961

The Honorable John F. Kennedy
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear President Kennedy:

Transmitted herewith is a petition by the members of the
Sixth Guam Legislature respectfully praying that you revoke Executive
Order No. 8683 as it applies to the territory of Guam.

Very truly yours,

/s/

A. B. WOH PAT
Speaker

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TO THE HONORABLE JOHN F. KENNEDY, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES:

Your petitioners, the only elected representatives of the people of Guam, respectfully represent that;

WHEREAS, on February 14, 1941, the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt promulgated Executive Order No. 8683 which established as a naval defensive sea area for purposes of national defense the "Guam Island Naval Defensive Sea Area," consisting of the territorial waters between the extreme high water mark and the three-mile marine boundary surrounding Guam, and forbade the entrance of any person, other than persons on public vessels of the United States, or any vessel, other than public vessels of the United States, or any aircraft, other than public aircraft of the United States, into this defensive area unless authorized by the Secretary of the Navy; and

WHEREAS, the Secretary of the Navy is still enforcing this executive order, promulgated in the face of imminent invasion from Imperial Japan, 20 years after its issuance, the enemy in the meanwhile having been vanquished and the danger of imminent invasion having long ago ceased; and

WHEREAS, in the enforcement of this executive order, the Navy has asserted the right to forbid the entry of any person--American citizen, alien, native-born resident of Guam, or anyone else, even though the Congress of the United States enacted and the President of the United States approved the "Organic Act of Guam" in 1950, which made residents of Guam American citizens and granted us a limited form of self-government with a locally elected Legislature, a Federal District Court, the Office of the United States Attorney, with a field office of the Immigration and Naturalization Service of the Department of Justice; and

WHEREAS, the enforcement of this executive order has prevented the development of any industry in Guam apart from the service industry dependent upon the military bases here, and has as well made impossible the development of any tourist trade since before a tourist can come to Guam he must first receive permission from the Secretary of the Navy; and

WHEREAS, the enforcement of this executive order in effect reduces the U. S. citizens resident on Guam to the status of second-class citizens since their entry into their home and place of residence--American soil both by treaty and Act of Congress--is subject to the whim of the Naval authorities who can and have denied entrance without giving any reason therefor; and

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WHEREAS, the necessity for the existence of the "Guam Island Naval Defensive Sea Area" has vanished along with the "Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere," the then enemy having been conquered, and the present enemy not being in a position nor having indicated any intention of invading this small island so remote from the Eurasian scene; and

WHEREAS, this restriction on entry into American soil is, to the knowledge of your petitioners, not imposed on any other area within the United States, even those of much more sensitive military importance, and ironically, even Okinawa, former enemy soil, occupied by former enemy aliens with a sizeable Communist minority, and with a much larger military complex, is of open access to all, compared to Guam whose people suffered and died for the United States during the war with Japan; and

WHEREAS, the USSR has raised in the United Nations the issue as to whether in fact the United States operates a colonial empire among the Pacific Islands whose citizens are alleged to be restricted in rights and deprived of any element of sovereignty and self-government, and although the people of Guam are eternally grateful to the United States Congress and the President for our priceless boon of American citizenship and limited self-government, which deep love and devotion to the United States we think we demonstrated during our three years of occupation by the enemy in the Second World War, nevertheless the existence of this outdated executive order has given rise to the conclusion that the Communist charge of colonialism in the Pacific has some element of truth in that an American military command can prevent a resident of Guam, or anyone else for that matter, from even entering this island, thus, ironically, creating an American Iron Curtain in the Pacific; and

WHEREAS, although the Secretary of the Navy recently announced the suspension of the operation of the executive order as far as it applies to American citizens, this suspension is only for six months, which makes impossible any planning to take advantage of the relaxation of this restriction since nothing can be accomplished if at the end of six months American citizens are again forbidden entry, all of which leads to the conclusion that the only permanent relief that should be properly requested by the people of Guam is the revocation by the President of the executive order in question;

NOW THEREFORE, your petitioners respectfully pray that the Honorable John F. Kennedy, President of the United States, revoke Executive Order No. 8683 as it applies to the territory of Guam.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we, the undersigned members of the Sixth Guam Legislature have hereunto set our hands, and the Legislative Secretary has affixed the seal of the Guam Legislature, at the City of Agana, territory of Guam, on the fourth day of October, in the year of our Lord

One Thousand, Nine Hundred and Sixty-One, and of the Independence of the United States of America the One Hundred and Eighty-Fifth.

 /s/
A. B. WON PAT
Sinajana

 /s/
A. S. N. FLORES
Inarajan

 /s/
J. L. ANDERSON
Agut

 /s/
J. A. FLORES
Piti

 /s/
G. M. BAMBIA
Agana Heights

 /s/
J. C. OKIYAMA
Yona

 /s/
V. B. BAMBIA
Barrigada

 /s/
P. D. PALTING
Tamuning

 /s/
R. J. BORDALLO
Tamuning

 /s/
F. T. RAMIREZ
Yigo

 /s/
J. C. CASTRO
Agana Heights

 /s/
J. Q. SAN MIGUEL
Mongmong

 /s/
A. L. CRISTOBAL
Barrigada

 /s/
J. T. M. TOVES
Asan

 /s/
J. P. CRUZ
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