

SENT
Interior
 APR 19 1969
 BY MEMO

GENERAL

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 PR 13/ST 51

(On envelope) ----- Edeluchel Eungel^X
 Magistrate
 Airai Municipality
 Palau District, Western Caroline Islands

PETITION TO THE HONORABLE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO APPOINT AN IMPARTIAL COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE THE VALIDITY OF CLAIM MADE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS TO CERTAIN LANDS LOCATED IN AIRAI VILLAGE, PALAU DISTRICT, TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS
 Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands 96940

We, the undersigned adult residents of the Palau District, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, do hereby petition the Honorable Richard M. Nixon, President of the United States of America, to appoint an impartial commission to investigate the validity of claims made by the Government of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands to certain lands located in Airai Village, Palau District, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands for the following reasons:

The inhabitants of Airai Village, Palau District, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, have been occupying their homelands since the German administration and their ancestors long before that time. That shortly before the start of World War II, many residents of Airai Village were forced to leave their homes by the Japanese soldiers who wanted to erect fortifications for the war effort.

After the end of World War II, the Trust Territory Government claimed these lands as public land. The land owners were never compensated for their lands by either the Government of Japan or the Government of the Trust Territory, and many inhabitants moved back onto their lands and constructed homes.

Over the past few years, the Government of the Trust Territory has forcibly taken several parcels of land in Airai Village without the permission of the owners and without any compensation. The inhabitants of Airai Village as well as the Palau District Legislature made official complaints to the officials within the district government, the Trust

of the Pacific Islands, have been occupying their homeland since the German administration and their ancestors long before that time. Just shortly before the start of World War II, many residents of Airai Village were forced to leave their homes by the Japanese soldiers who wanted to erect fortifications for the war effort.

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In a letter dated July 5, 1968, the District Administrator for the Palau District, approximately ten (10) families were asked to vacate

