

MICRONESIA HOUSE
2220 University Avenue
Honolulu, Hawaii
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June 11, 1971

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Dear Americans,

We are Micronesians studying in your country and we write this open letter to you because we believe strongly that you can understand our problem and have the power to help us.

Twenty-four years ago our country of Micronesia was placed under the United Nations and at the insistence of the United States Government was made the only strategic trust territory whereby the United States was guaranteed the right to use our islands for military purposes. Since then, the United States has repeatedly taken advantage of this "legal" right by using some of our islands to develop deadly military weapons. All this has been done in the name of "international peace and security" but at great damage and irreparable loss to our people and islands.

Our islands have been essential in the development of the American military might and their names should be familiar to you. Bikini, in the 40's and 50's, was the site of atomic and nuclear tests. So was Eniwetok. It is reported that Eniwetok is still being used by the military for biological and chemical warfare experimentation. The people of Rongelap became "human" guinea pigs in 1954 when radiation from a hydrogen bomb test "accidentally" reached their island. Today, they are still a subject in medical journals and doctors from MIT regularly visit their island for medical check-ups. Kwajalein and the islands nearby, twenty-six years after the war, are still in the hands of U.S. military and provide the biggest and the only missile testing base outside of the United States. Saipan, for eleven years, was a CIA training base for Asian guerrilla forces. Other islands have also been used for military-related programs and projects.

Our people from a number of these islands are still living in exile and they long to return but the U.S. military will not allow them. When the United States wanted their islands they willingly accepted the burdens so that the children of America could live in peace and security. But it appears that the United States still wants to inflict more "peace burdens" on our people and extracts more sacrifice from them. According to a UPI story (The Honolulu Advertiser, 6/10/71), the United States now wants to transfer the atomic war weaponry from Okinawa to Micronesia. And we are confused and disturbed by this. We asked ourselves, have we not done enough for Pax Americana? We don't know the answers to these troubling questions. But like many Americans who do not like atomic weapons in their backyard, we do not want them in our midst.

We know what war means. When Japan fortified our islands in violation of the League of Nations mandate, it was an invitation to enemy attacks. American bombs and bullets killed many of our people and destroyed our homes and islands. If the United States Government establishes bases in Micronesia and puts bombs in them, it will be abandoning its United Nations obligations to protect our people and islands. We will be a target of enemy attacks in future wars. We do not want to go through that same experience under the United States.

We consider you, the American people, as our best friend. But, slowly and reluctantly, we are beginning to wonder if the United States Government is not our enemy, too. We are a small country and our people are very few and weak. In necessary, however, we will fight but only with your help shall we win. We, therefore, earnestly ask all decent and peace-loving Americans to help us stop the United States from planting the deadly war weapons in our midst. The United States Government listens, not to us, but to you. Please, let it know that THE CHILDREN OF MICRONESIA TOO, WANT TO LIVE IN PEACE AND SECURITY.

In the Name of Peace and Humanity

MICRONESIAN INDEPENDENCE ADVOCATES