

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 25

*Setting Forth Dates for
Plebiscite on the Compact of Free Association;
Establishing Plebiscite Education Committee;
Authorizing Expenditures of Funds Relating Thereto,
and Prescribing the Plebiscite Ballot*

WHEREAS, the Republic of Palau and the United States of America, through their respective Ambassadors, signed on May 23, 1984 the Compact of Free Association and its related subsidiary agreements: and

WHEREAS, in its closing statement at the 51st Session of the United Nations Trusteeship Council, the official delegation of the Republic of Palau informed the Council that the plebiscite on the Compact of Free Association would be held in July, 1984; and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States of America has formally transmitted to the Congress of the United States for its action the Compacts of Free Association for the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshalls and congressional approval of those compacts could conceivably be effected before the end of 1984; and

WHEREAS, postponing the plebiscite on the Compact until 1985 may result in a time-consuming policy review process of the Compact for the Republic of Palau by the United States Government in the event that the incumbent United States President is defeated in the upcoming election; and

WHEREAS, in view of the financial constraints imposed on the Republic of Palau during the past three and one half years, it is in the best interests of the general public that the plebiscite be held early this year to insure higher levels of financial assistance from the United States under the Compact rather than those under the FY 85 budget for Palau; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Executives of four states; namely, Ngiwal, Melekeok, Peleliu and Angaur, formally notified the Senate JGA Committee that it would not be necessary for said Committee to hold public hearings in their respective states, and strongly urge that their people be given the opportunity to vote on the Compact as soon as practicable; and

WHEREAS, no fewer than 100 voters of the State of Ngaraard have communicated their desire to the Senate JGA Committee through a petition that “. . . the plebiscite should be held as soon as possible and as far advance of the general elections in November as possible . . .”; and

WHEREAS, no fewer than 100 employees of the Bureau of Public Works, Ministry of National Resources, have signed a letter addressed to the Vice President of the Senate, First Olbiil Era Kelulau, advising that “. . . Any delay on the approval of the Compact by the electorate of Palau will have dire consequences on our lives and the lives of all Palauans. We therefore ask that our position supporting the holding of the plebiscite on the Compact at the earliest possible

time to insure that the Compact can be implemented in 1985 be made crystal clear to you and your fellow Senators;” and

WHEREAS, the House of Delegates, First Olbiil Era Kelulau, during its Eighteenth Special Session, adopted House Resolution NO. 1-0040-18S, HDI, transmitting the Compact of Free Association and its related agreements to the voters of the Republic for ratification; authorizing the President of the Republic of Palau to proclaim the date of Compact plebiscite to be no later than August 10, 1984, and establishing the form of the plebiscite ballot; and

WHEREAS, the Senate, First Olbiil Era Kelulau, after many days of considering amendments to RPPL No. 1-60 recommended by the President to hold the Compact plebiscite in July, 1984, has elected to postpone the said Compact plebiscite until May, 1985 and thus depriving the voters their wishes to vote on the Compact as early as practicable in 1984, and

WHEREAS, the conferees of the House of Delegates and the Senate, in Conference Committee Report No. 24 regarding differences in H.B. No. 1-0293-17S, HD2, SDI, have reported to their respective Houses that they are deadlocked on the issue of the date when the plebiscite on the Compact of Free Association should be held, and

WHEREAS, the House of Delegates, during the Fifteenth Regular Session, July, 1984, of the First Olbiil Era Kelulau, adopted House Resolution No. 1-0041-15 “requesting the President of the Republic of Palau to go forward with the referendum on the Compact of Free Association and related agreements . . .”

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution of the Republic of Palau, I do hereby proclaim and order that:

1. The plebiscite on the Compact of Free Association and its related agreements shall be held on Tuesday, September 4, 1984 in the Republic of Palau, except that said plebiscite will be held on Sunday, September 2, 1984, in jurisdictions outside of Palau for those qualified and registered voters of Palau residing therein and conducted in accordance with applicable provisions of RPPL No. 1-60.

2. There is established a Plebiscite Education Committee consisting of five members whose duties and responsibilities are generally prescribed by Section 8 of RPPL No. 1-60 and whose term shall commence with the date of their presidential appointments and shall end the day after the plebiscite.

3. Two hundred thousand dollars, or such sum as necessary, made available as direct grant from the United States Government, shall be used for the purpose of defraying the cost and contingent expenses of the Compact plebiscite and by the Plebiscite Education Committee in the performance of its responsibilities.

4. The plebiscite ballot shall read as follows:

“Place an ‘X’ or other mark in one box.

DO YOU APPROVE FREE ASSOCIATION WITH
THE UNITED STATES AS SET FORTH IN THE
COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION AND ITS
RELATED AGREEMENTS, IN THE MANNER
SPECIFIED BY COMPACT SECTION 411(b)
AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE II,
SECTION 3 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF
THE REPUBLIC OF PALAU?

YES

NO

5. In the event the First Olbiil Era Kelulau pass House Bill No. 1-0293-17S providing that the plebiscite on the Compact of Free Association be held no later than September 10, 1984, this Executive Order shall be rendered null and void as having been duly superseded by such legislative enactment.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunder set my hand and affixed my seal this 16th day of July, 1984, in the State of Koror, Republic of Palau.

Haruo I. Remeliik
President
Republic of Palau