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Fr. Felix Yaoch, S.J.
Superior
Sacred Heart Church and Mission
Koror
Republic of Palau, 96940

April 10, 1999

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Dear Father Felix.

As you know, the circumstances of the deaths of the six Jesuit missionaries--Fr. Elias, Fr. Marino, Bro. Emilio, Fr. Luis Blanco Y Suarez (assigned to Yap), Fr. Bernardo De La Espriella (Yap), Bro. Francisco Hernandez Y Escudero (Yap) and 4 members of the Hondonero family (also from Yap) in Palau in September 1944 have been unknown since that tragic event happened.

While searching for evidence of Roman Tmetuchl's participation in the Guam war crimes investigations, I found in the U.S. National Archives not only the record of Roman's testimony, but also statements made by Japanese Imperial Army soldiers who were involved in the executions of the six missionaries and the Hondonero family. Enclosed you will find statements and affidavits of:

1. Sugimoto, Takeji -- affidavit, 17 March 1946?
2. Sugimoto, Takeji -- statement, 19 April 1947?
3. Ichimiya, Masao -- statement, no date
4. Uchida, Fumio -- statement, 9 September 1947
5. Nakamura, Jiro -- statement, 13 November 1947
6. Okamura, Gintaro -- statement, 20 December 1947
7. Ezure, Shigeru -- statement, 13 September 1947
8. Yokoyama, Kyohisa -- affidavit, 5 May 1947

While examining these records, it came to mind that the sketch maps that some of them have, particularly that of Sugimoto's affidavit, Ichimiya's statement, and Uchida's statement might provide sufficient information to identify the general area of the grave site. If that could be done, then proper Church rites and ceremonies for the deceased could be carried out. Perhaps a simple monument memorializing the sacrifices these missionaries made could be constructed. I am hoping Roman Tmetuchl could assist you in this effort and I am also writing to him.

I hope these documents and ideas might be of use to you in your important work.

Sincerely,

Donald R. Shuster

c.c. Mr. Roman Tmetuchl