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THIRD INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM

Pacific regional seminar on the implementation of the Third International Decade for
the Eradication of Colonialism: current realities and prospects

Quito, Ecuador
30 May to 1 June 2012

DISCUSSION PAPER

PRESENTED BY

ANGUILLA NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN

(ANGUILLA)

The Relativity of the Third Decade on

Decolonization

By

the United Nation's Committee of 24.

STATEMENT

BY

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Anguilla

INTRODUCTION

Your Excellency, Mr. Chairman and Fellow Members of the Decolonization Committee, Distinguished Representatives, other Participants - A pleasant Good Morning. Mr. Chair it is most fitting for me to applaud our gracious hosts, the Government and People of Quito, Ecuador for their splendid hospitality extended. It has been overwhelming signifying their full understanding of this forum a true sense of their empathy and being a true product of a freed people.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for this opportunity to speak on behalf of The Anguilla National Council of Women that comprises of thirty-five active women organizations and some 4 unisex organizations, of whom, wholeheartedly I am please to inform that my presence here today is supported by the wider Anguillian Society, be they Churches, Political Caucus Groups, Parliamentarians and Government alike, dignified professionals, the Media and Civil Society all in one accord echoing the theme of Anguilla's Right to Self Determination. Mr. Chairman The United Nations Decolonization Committee of 24 assembling this time goes beyond co-incidence, for in that while we meet in this forum the people of Anguilla is celebrating 45 years since we stood up, made it known to the world that we stand up against oppression and maintain our right to freedom, from social, economic and political injustice. The echo since 1967 still runs deep and the beacon still guides us out of the pharaohs' disguise armies. Our people since 1967 winged their way right the UN in our fight for political freedom. Today our presence here is to confirm that Self Governance is a must and will be achieved hence we affirm that the Third decade on Decolonization is necessary and should not conclude until every oppressed colony of people is liberated. Our participation is to further facilitate communication; provide a common voice at regional and international forums, such as this Seminar, on our inherent collective right. As one people, with one voice, we strengthen our Anguillian identity, our unity, our culture and social action to represent the communities I and all the organizations we serve.

Mr. Chairman, we the people of Anguilla commend you and your Committee's monumental work, undertaken through the U.N. decolonization process, to assure the fulfillment of the exercise to self-determination and political independence for oppressed, colonized, peoples all over the world.

However, in spite of these notable achievements, we the people of Anguilla are gravely concerned that colonialism by our Sovereign Kingdom, is taking place in new and changing forms, all the more it has accelerated and intensified, rather than declined. Therefore, the need for the decolonization campaign is even greater, rather than less, as gather in this second year on the third Decade on Decolonization; it must be lit with decisive action, for the empowerment of the people through education beyond the three R's but rather; it has to be of the people. Our Human capital must be sustained with manpower that is necessary for that ultimate leap to being an autonomous. The third decade on decolonization demands the full commitment of all players to be open and frank in partnering in this process... I dare say having been witness to the last decade we must move beyond mere rhetoric. The decade must enable the native people to engage in sustainable development, through proper exploration and management of our natural resources. To bring the point home Anguilla's vast span of ocean with our flourishing seabed of fish is not fully utilized by our people because of lack of skill and finance our Sovereign Head who is known to be masters of the sea has not to this date in any partnership with us in this area but instead, it is being scaled by other Nations. This is just one example of enabling us as a people to be masters of our own destiny. Our people must be prepared with skills or know how and have the necessary equipment; Mr. Chairman that's where you and your organizations must assist.

Anguilla's presentation is in the form of examples of expanding the third decade on decolonization. It therefore begins with questions and comments as to how these needs are to be address If not by your Committee, then by what other mechanisms. The third decade must bring about tangible and sustainable results as we move forward or else your mission is futile. I charge you that our presence here must be charge with a renewed vision and action plan then and only then will the remaining sixteen colonies

will be decolonized.

Decolonization through Human Rights

The Anguillian people call on the Decolonization Committee to: reaffirm and uphold with them their right to self-determination and political independence from United Kingdom; we call on the government of United Kingdom to halt the upsetting political, social and economic blockages. Could it be Mr. Chairman that to date only three of the six basic Human Rights Conventions have not yet been extended to us and I say the essential for us as we strive to be self governing namely The ICCRPR, ICESCR and we are awaiting CEDAW it only by being able to enforce our rights then we are regarded and respected and treated as a people. The United Kingdom should unearth their damaging control by increasing power to the Governor and invest the same in our duly elected Government by the people and for the people. As a people far more we renounce the divide & rule tactic as in the management of the Public Service, including the Police Force and Senior Public Servants who is under the Governor's remit! while it is the Local Government who is responsible for the payment of salaries and other benefits to all civil servants.

Constitutional Reform

Mr. Chairman this movement towards enslavement of our people is in the tardiness and long overdue of a new constitution for Anguilla all be it that Anguilla is ONLY remaining Overseas Territory with an unfinished Constitutional Reform Process. This process must be people oriented and not just trusted on to us. We further call on our fellow Overseas Territories to remain banded together. The suspension of Turks and Caicos constitution must be the wake up call for all of us as people. What ever the issue may be we are not to be branded by the alleged acts of a few. the action taken by our Sovereign is a retrograde and sure that of re-colonization. People of the territories let us not be pulled in the net of self, that is what I can get for me. Who now can hear their cry their plea th We are one people, born out of slavery; we cannot allow this new face of slavery to bribe us into the web domination. We must be a people continuing to chart our own destiny. Through the developmental options as outlined in the United Nations Resolutions 14/15 Mr. Chair these are but some of our concerns and your challenges

for the 3rd decade on Decolonization facing us head on.

Political Status

We in Anguilla made it clear that we are on the road to full self-determination, as was evident by the Anguilla Revolution of 1967 and affirmed in 1980 where Britain declared “*that they will not subject Anguilla to an administration it did not want !*” hence by choice we entered a relationship with Britain towards achieving our goal. Today that relationship seems to be continuously undermined. As a result, we Anguillians are becoming socially, culturally, politically and economically deprived people in our island call home. Mr. Chairman, what is even more alarming is that we have no voice in forums where major decisions are made, because of our political status, bid me to give one glaring example the upcoming Olympics to be held in the United Kingdom will feature an Anguillian in the United Kingdom top 100 athletes. She is class in Long jump and track and field race, however, to enter the races she had to enter under Britain and not Anguilla. This young woman in disgust wrote, *because of the opportunity I go as Britain but I know in my heart I am Anguillian and will always be Anguillian*. This is the resentment building amongst our Youth as to what it means to be Anguillian the answer lies following the process and right to self Governance. Let alone Mr. Chairman, in globalization, trade and investment, can only be done under the absolute decision of the United Kingdom Government. Even more unsettling is the element of fear to drive our people to action - A few weeks ago Anguilla who has a daily boat service 15 minutes ride every 30 -45 minutes freely go and come - to and from St Martin arbitrarily learnt that Anguillians without the British Passport – were no longer allowed to enter St Martin without a visa. It was fear, it was chaos, fearful for the Government trying to find a solution but in our neighboring island of St Martin who is a department of France received this mandate. The decisive action has been shelved momentarily as the answer has to come from Sovereign Kingdom France which is a mandate from the European Union in regard to free travel among EU citizens. The mind boggling effect of such a measure is to force our people to obtain the European Union British Passport, then who are we to speak of a right to self determination or would it be the trump card for us to be become fully integrated. Mark you well, the 40% approximately of

Anguillans who obtained the EU British passport had done so by opportunities granted by marriage to an Anguillian or years of residency. This is another complexity of development and population growth.

The Chief Minister's Plea

Mr. Chairman in coming here the Hon. Chief Minister message was "My people who is on journey to freedom is at a very critical juncture our only hope is through the United Nations to assure that the United Kingdom lives up to the promised of 1980 when it decided that they will never place Anguilla under an administration it does not want and Anguilla maintain its rights to self determination under the other three options - Self Internal Governance, Integration or Full Independence. Today we are told either Full Integration or Independence.

Let me conclude with the following

Statements and Recommendations:

1. Colonialism in the British Overseas Territories in the Caribbean in new and changing forms, has accelerated and intensified, rather than declined. Accordingly, we in Anguilla do see the need for the decolonization process greater, than ever, hence there is need for the 3rd Decade of Decolonization with a finite goal of decolonization for all peoples.
2. The Committee's decolonization mandate needs to be extended until the last vestiges of colonialism are eradicated. The process also needs to address the neocolonial devastating effects where global organization because of their power and finance and trade want to remove us as people from our native lands, away from our culture and to manipulate our fragile ecosystems.
3. Anguilla is the most affected and active British Overseas colonized territory pursuing and deserving expeditious decolonization. However, the increasing demands restrictions through the White Paper on partnership, the differentiation in the level of autonomy in our constitutions and the latitude to our borrowing

signals/thresholds, there are uneven plains to empowerment of us as one people in the region should not continue

4. The decolonization process must be expanded to involve other U.N. organizations and extra-U.N. bodies concerned with human rights, economic development and the environment;
5. It is imperative that we in Civil Society Non Government Organizations become more involved in the decolonization process, which we generate our own initiatives and that such actions are recognized. These initiatives include personal decolonization there has to be a change in our mindset and overcome the psychic of fear and the perceived comfort zone of comfort and security. There must be enhanced involvement of local communities;
6. Education through awareness building via various mediums including the media, dance and music for freedom. The education system must be cognitive and behavioral.
7. Civil Society must be empowered with the full right to report independently to your committee on the decolonization process, this can be further achieved with the appointment of local focal points in the territories or Commissions;
8. That the key to preparing our peoples is greater involvement of the UN Agencies in the territories such as FAO, UNDP, UNFPA, PAHO, WHO, UNICEF, UNESCO, UNIFEM with programmes and financial assistance like given to other Independent nations;

Furthermore Mr. Chairman the UN Decolonization Committee must play a more ACTIVE and monitoring role during this decade, there should be an agreement reached whereby the Decolonization Committee must be to send missions to the territories for progress evaluation of the people towards decolonization then you are ensuring that colonization is truly eradicated from our people.

Mr. Chairman

I thank you . . .