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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

PRESENTATION

BY

ED ALVAREZ

D.P. 2  
Mr. Alvarez

HAFU ADAI CHAIRMAN DIEGO MOREJON PAZMINO AND ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE OF 24 HERE TODAY! ON BEHALF OF OUR HONORABLE GOVERNOR EDDIE BAZA CALVO, I WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE YOU ON YOUR SELECTION AS THE C24 CHAIRMAN!

I WAS ASKED TO GIVE AN UPDATE ON THE PUBLIC EDUCATION EFFORTS OF THE GUAM COMMISSION ON DECOLONIZATION. CHAIRMAN PAZMINO, GUAM HAS COME A LONG WAY IN RAISING THE AWARENESS ABOUT DECOLONIZATION SINCE THE LAST REGIONAL MEETING IN ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINE ISLANDS IN JUNE 2011.

THE AWARENESS LEVEL IS HAS BEEN TREMENDOUSLY ELEVATED AND MORE AND MORE PEOPLE ARE CURIOUS ABOUT GUAM'S POLITICAL DESTINY. IN SHORT, DECOLONIZATION HAS BECOME A CENTERPIECE DISCUSSION WHICH WAS BORN OUT OF MANY APPEARANCES ON LOCAL TV TALK SHOWS, OUTREACH PROGRAMS WITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS STUDENTS, ROTARY CLUBS, AND CIVIC GROUPS BY MYSELF

CHAIRMAN PAZMINO, THE CHALLENGE NOW IS TO KEEP THE MOMENTUM GOING WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY DEVELOPING AN EDUCATIONAL FORMAT NECESSARY FOR THE PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAM. THE FORMAT WILL HIGHLIGHT POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND SOCIAL ISSUES LIKE IMMIGRATION, TRADE AND COMMERCE, TAXATION, NATURAL RESOURCES, CULTURE, FEDERAL ASSISTANCE, AND THE MILITARY BUILD UP. IT IS KEY FOR ALL THE POSITION PAPERS TO HAVE UNIFORMITY IN THEIR FORMAT SO THAT VOTERS CAN EASILY COMPARE AND CONTRAST WHAT EACH STATUS OPTION BRINGS TO THE TABLE.

CHAIRMAN PAZMINO, WE HAD OUR FIRST COMMISSION MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 23, 2011, HISTORIC, AS THE LAST ONE WAS ALMOST 8 YEARS! TO DATE, WE HAVE HELD FIVE MORE COMMISSION MEETINGS WITH MUCH DIALOGUE ON THE PLEBISCITE DATE AND FUNDING FOR THE EDUCATION PROGRAM. TODAY, WE ARE AT THE STAGE WHERE THE FUNDING FOR THE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM IS OUR TOP PRIORITY AND HINGES DIRECTLY ON THE COMMISSION'S ABILITY TO SET THE PLEBISCITE DATE. WE ARE WAITING ON LEGAL OPINION ABOUT WHAT EXACTLY OUR PUBLIC LAW MEANS BY THE COMMISSION BEING ABLE TO ACCEPT "GIFTS" AND IF CASH IS CONSIDERED AS SUCH. IN APRIL, WE SENT THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR A BUDGET AT THEIR REQUEST, SINCE THERE IS A COMMITMENT OF \$250,000.00 OUR GOVERNOR HAS ALSO MADE A PLEDGE OF \$250,000.00 FROM LOCAL FUNDS TOWARD THIS EFFORT. HOWEVER, IN THE MODERN WORLD OF ADVERTISING, WE ALL KNOW IT IS VERY EXPENSIVE AND WE

FEEL COMFORTABLE STATING THAT OUR PROGRAM WILL COST ABOUT 1 MILLION DOLLARS

CHAIRMAN PAZMINO, I RESPECTFULLY REQUEST YOUR HONORABLE COMMITTEE'S ASSISTANCE IN HELPING GUAM ATTAIN THE FUNDS OR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NECESSARY TO EDUCATE THE PEOPLE OF GUAM IN WHAT THE THREE STATUS OPTIONS MEAN FOR OUR POLITICAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES. THIS ASSISTANCE IS NECESSARY TO CONTINUE RAISING THE AWARENESS AND KNOWLEDGE BASE OUR PEOPLE HAVE REGARDING DECOLONIZATION.

AS I MENTIONED IN THE LAST REGIONAL SEMINAR, WE PLANNED TO EMBARK ON A NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN TO BRING MORE EXPOSURE TO THE UNITED STATES AND THE WORLD ABOUT OUR DECOLONIZATION. IN APRIL, JAPAN TV GIANT NHK CAME TO GUAM TO DOCUMENT OUR PERSPECTIVE ON DECOLONIZATION AND THE MILITARY BUILD-UP. THIS STORY AIRED ON MAY 11TH TO ABOUT 6 MILLION VIEWERS. THEY ALSO SENT A CREW TO OKINAWA TO DOCUMENT OUR ACTIVITIES DURING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REVERSION OF OKINAWA TO JAPAN. THERE ARE ALSO OTHER INTERNATIONAL MEDIA INTERESTED IN COMING PRIMARILY IN LIGHT OF THE NEWLY PROPOSED MILITARY BUILD UP ON GUAM, BUT ARE ALSO INTERESTED IN GUAM'S DECOLONIZATION EFFORTS.

GUAM HAS ALSO BEGAN AGGRESSIVE EFFORTS TO POPULATE OUR DECOLONIZATION REGISTRY AS REQUIRED BY PUBLIC LAW. IN ONE YEAR, WE HAVE DOUBLED THE NUMBER OF CHAMORRO REGISTERED AND HAVE FURTHER ENHANCED OUR ABILITY TO MORE EXPEDIENTLY REGISTER THOSE WHO ARE LEFT. OUR ELECTION COMMISSION HAS TAKEN THE LEAD ON THIS WITH MY OFFICE ASSISTING. THERE ARE NOW 79 CERTIFIED REGISTRARS AS COMPARED TO ONLY 10 A YEAR AGO.

CHAIRMAN PAZMINO, INDEED THERE IS STILL MUCH TO DO BUT WE ARE HOPEFUL THE PLEBISCITE VOTE WILL HAPPEN IN A FEW YEARS! IN THE MEANTIME AND UNTIL GUAM GOES DOWN THE PATH TO SELF-DETERMINATION, WE MUST MAKE IT CLEAR THAT GUAM IS PART OF THE UNITED STATES. BY VIRTUE OF THAT, THE UNITED STATES IS PART OF GUAM AND THE SURROUNDING ISLANDS IN OUR PART OF THE WORLD.

THE DECOLONIZATION PROCESS FOR MANY OF THE COLONIZED AND THE ONCE COLONIZED WAS OFTEN WROUGHT WITH GRIEVANCES OF LIBERTY

DENIED, OR HARSH TREATMENT BY THE ADMINISTERING POWER, OR OF THE BURDEN OF TAXES WITHOUT REPRESENTATION IN THE LEGISLATURE LEVYING SUCH TAXES.

CHAIRMAN PAZMINO, GOVERNOR CALVO WANTS TO MAKE IT ABUNDANTLY CLEAR THAT THE COURSE OUR ISLAND HAS TAKEN WITH THE UNITED STATES HIGHLY CONTRASTS WITH THE CENTURIES OF COLONIZATION BY SPAIN, AND THE TWO AND A HALF YEAR OCCUPATION BY THE JAPANESE IMPERIAL ARMY. WHILE THE SPANIARDS WAGED WAR ON THE CHAMORRO, AND WHILE THE JAPANESE IMPERIAL SOLDIERS TORTURED AND MURDERED INNOCENT CHAMORRO, THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT HAS, FOR THE MOST PART, TREATED CHAMORROS AND GUAMANIAN WITH RESPECT AND DIGNITY. AND FOR THE MOST PART, THE ADMINISTERING POWER HAS TAKEN STEPS OVER THE PAST FEW DECADES TO INCLUDE GUAM IN THE POLITIC. ALAS, WE REMAIN AN UNINCORPORATED TERRITORY, A TERM COINED BY THE SUPREME COURT OF THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY THAT SAID THAT PEOPLE OF COLOR ARE SEPARATE BUT EQUAL. AND WHILE PLESSY VS FERGUSON HAS SINCE BEEN RIGHTED BY BROWN VS BOARD OF EDUCATION, THE INSULAR CASES HAVE YET TO BE TESTED IN A MORE MODERN COURT...ONE GOVERNOR CALVO BELIEVES WILL NOT ACCEPT THE POLITICAL DISCRIMINATION APPOINTED BY THE PREVIOUS COURT.

CHAIRMAN PAZMINO, THE POLITICAL DESIGNATION OF GUAM BY THE ADMINISTERING POWER AS AN UNINCORPORATED TERRITORY IS AS MUCH AN ISSUE AS THE SELF-DETERMINATION ISSUE ITSELF. THE DISCRIMINATION IN FEDERAL MANDATES APPLICABLE TO UNINCORPORATED TERRITORIES AND THE STATES IS THE PRODUCT OF THIS DESIGN ITSELF, AND HAS RESULTED IN THE GRIEVANCES GUAM HAS WITH THE FEDERAL OFFICIALS. THESE INCLUDE THE UNFUNDED EARNED INCOME TAX CREDITS, THE UNEQUAL REIMBURSEMENTS OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS, AND THE HEAVY BURDEN THE UNITED STATES HAS PLACED UPON GUAM FROM ITS CONTINUING COMPACTS WITH THE FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES. I SHOULD NOTE THAT ALTHOUGH INJUSTICES LIKE THIS EXIST, THE ADMINISTERING POWER HAS TAKEN STEPS TO IMPROVE CONDITIONS AND CORRECT INJUSTICES.

BUT, ALAS THE QUESTION OF JUSTICE IN THE APPLICATION OF THE ADMINISTERING POWER'S LAW COMES DOWN TO THE LAGGING POLITICAL WEIGHT OF AN ISLAND OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE NO VOTING REPRESENTATION IN THE CONGRESS THAT MAKES THE LAWS APPLICABLE TO GUAM. AND IF WE WERE TO SEEK SUCH REPRESENTATION, WE WOULD

THEN BE DETERMINING ULTIMATELY THAT WE SEEK A CLOSER RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES? WE SUBMIT THAT THE SOONER WE GET THAT QUESTION OUT OF THE WAY THROUGH THE SELF-DETERMINATION PLEBISCITE, THE SOONER WE CAN HAVE CLARITY ON THE ISSUES OUTSTANDING TO OUR PEOPLE AND THEIR LIVELIHOOD.

CHAIRMAN PAZMINO, WE REMAIN LOYAL AND SUPPORTIVE TO OUR ADMINISTERING POWER, JUST AS THE UNITED STATES HAS REMAINED LOYAL AND SUPPORTIVE OF GUAM.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH AND HAVE A GREAT DAY!