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THIRD INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM

**Caribbean regional seminar on the implementation of the Third International
Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: the United Nations at 70: taking
stock of the decolonization agenda**

**Managua, Nicaragua
19 to 21 May 2015**

STATEMENT BY

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(TURKS AND CAICOS)

Thank you Mr. Chairman and congratulation to you, your co- chairs and kudos to the committee and various delegation gathered here. Further thanks to the host Country for such excellent hospitality.

70 years since into the UN's work began, 53/4 years since TCI has been having the conversation of Self Determination toward and following the Independence of Jamaica, and on the eve of its' Fortieth year since the introduction of the 1976 Constitution which allowed for Ministerial Government after much agitation by the it people, especially as a result of continuous agitation by the TCI people concluding in the Juncanoo Club incidences of 1975 and 76. I am grateful for the opportunity to attend and share in the C-24 Seminar and bring greetings from Premier, Hon. Dr. Rufus Ewing.

Prior to all this, Turks and Caicos has seen many years of neglect for a while has been hauled to and fro between the governments of Jamaica and the Bahamas, having between 1748 and 1773 its own Presidency for 25 years. In its most recent times and particularly since the advent of the United Nations – TCI has gone from being governed under Jamaica, to Bahamas, then again to having its own governor appointed by Her Majesty.

A study done by Mr. Peter Clegg "Governance in the UK Overseas Territories: The Case of the Turks and Caicos Island," said in 2009 that, the UK had no real plan for the OTs, it had a knee-jerk reaction to dealing with matters.

In 2014, 24 years of pursuing calls for the Eradication of Colonialism, the report by Carlisle Corbin is that the TCI shows that Colonialism is alive and growing – his study "Recolonising the Colony 2014 The case of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The TCIs seek to comply with the mandate given by the Administering power and the Politically elected Government does what it can to forge ahead on it own political agenda. Premier Ewing is Quoted in Carlyle's study referred to, "Pg 27"

When I presented to the 2011 Seminar in Saint Vincent I offered Proposals for the TCI, the UK and the UN. See attached.

While in his recent campaign the Prime Minister Mr. Brown Celebrated the Magna Carter and spoke of the inalienable right to a Jury Trial as a Brit, the Turks and Caicos Islander cannot. For while it is a subject we often wish to touch, the Turks and Caicos Islanders charged in the Corruption cases cannot get a Jury trial, but the non-black Attorneys will. Carlyle's report pg 26, words of the former premier, now charged in the corruption cases.

While the Executive, Legislative and Judiciary arms of Government are supposed to be separate but equal, it appears in recent/present times that they have forged a partnership that makes lady justice to have seemingly lost her blindfold.

This is verified by the fact that the JSC has no independent office but rather sits in the Governor's office when they are visiting to decide who should be app for the JS. There is no established Sec for the JSC save and accept a single individual based in the G's officer who have the dual role of assisting the JSC and the Governor's office.

TCI is working tenaciously to rid the UK of its' guarantor responsibility in February of next year and has hopes that it will allow for the Constitutional reforms it seeks follow the Constitutional Reform Committee report and the debate thereof in the House of Assembly.

I believe a presence of the UN/C-24 is necessary in the TCI if the mission is to be given legitimacy in the minds of the TCI Peoples.

Currently the UK says we have two options – name a date and be ready in 24 month to take on Independence, what has happened to the other options the UN espouses?

Some of our Institutions that worked well for the Territory has be sacrificed on the Alter of Reform. Their removal has done more harm than good.

I believe in the right of all people to Self Determination. It is a cause for which I live, but like Mandala, it is also a cause for which I am prepared to die.

Let us do more than talk, let's see it through.

Proposal from 2011 Caribbean Seminar

Proposals for the Territory:

Leaders within the Territory must carefully determine that it will pursue two and a half to three years for educating its people on the benefits, advantages and disadvantages of Self Determination and what that mean for the Territory.

Create for itself a standing Constitution Commission that will look at the ever changing needs of its society as it relates to the Constitution,

Create a Committee on Foreign Affairs, Diplomatic and/or Protocol office/Committee to begin to focus as become necessary along these lines,

Create for itself a Paramilitary core of a size and remit of its own choosing.

Ensure alongside these, are institution that become pillars of the Society as they relate to Finances and the Economy, Laws and Education, etc.,

With the assistance of the United Kingdom and the United Nations, determine the best way forward for its legal tender, and where necessary make tentative or formal agreements for use of the same,

Determine a means of measurement visible to all, that the "milestones" have been achieved, and that the Territory has the means to sustain itself throughout its future.

Proposal for the United Kingdom:

Demonstrate recognition of and for the rights of its Territories and their people to Self Determination,

Work in tandem with the Territory toward this inevitability,

Create in conjunction with the Territory and the United Nations a written charter signed by the tripartite for the express purpose,

As a goodwill gesture, fill the post of Attorney General with a residing QC in the various territories, or allow (as desired) by some territories that such a post is filled by a successful candidate for the House of Assembly. If the AG is by elected office then the DPP should be a local QC.

Make available study and/or attachment opportunities for Territorial indigenous persons filling these new posts.

Proposal for the United Nations:

While the effort and activities has gone a long way, I believe more can be done to obtain complete eradication of colonialism.

It is well noted that the charter does not assign any particular task to the UN with respect to non-self-governing territories. You might recall that my college at the October sitting in New York, from the TCI Forum, Mr. Alpha Gibbs, suggested that there be some oversight of the UK dealings with TCI, in the light

that the UK was/is re-colonizing the Turks and Caicos Islands. Thus, my call for the tripartite paper with signatures for the decolonization of the Territories.

The United Kingdom has made bold statements that if either of its territories/colonies wants to become Independent; the UK will not stand in its way. At the same time, however, it makes no effort to prepare the Colonies for such a move.

We do not ask the United Kingdom or the United Nations to do anything for us, but to act in tandem with us for the stated purpose as "Partners."