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SECOND INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM

**Caribbean Regional Seminar on the implementation of the Second
International Decade for the Eradication of
Colonialism: next steps in decolonization**

**St. George's, Grenada
22 to 24 May 2007**

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Delivered by Ms. Freda Mackay
Chief, Decolonization Unit, Department of Political Affairs
United Nations Secretariat

In this Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories, it gives me great pleasure to convey my greetings to all who have gathered in Grenada for the Caribbean Regional Seminar on Decolonization, my first message to a meeting convened by the Special Committee of 24. I would like to express my appreciation to the Government and people of Grenada for their generous hospitality in hosting this gathering.

Achieving self-government for the peoples of the world has been one of the cardinal goals of the United Nations since its inception. Under the Organization's auspices, nearly 750 million people have benefited from the exercise of the right to self-determination, and decolonization can truly be considered a United Nations success story.

Today, there are 16 Non-Self-Governing Territories remaining on the agenda of the United Nations. As an organ mandated to facilitate decolonization, the Special Committee organizes seminars such as this one to provide a forum for the two million people living in these Territories to air their views about the unique problems they face, and to promote direct communication between the Special Committee, the representatives of the Territories and the administering Powers. As we all know, cooperation between the administering Power, the Territories and the United Nations is essential for there to be progress in discharging the mandate of the Special Committee on Decolonization.

Later this year, in an important act of self-determination, Tokelau will hold a second referendum on the option of self-government in free association with New Zealand. The path followed by this small Pacific territory in close cooperation with the administering Power is an example of what can be achieved when there is constructive political will. The close cooperation extended to the Committee by both parties stands out as exemplary.

Some of the other Territories, particularly in the Caribbean, have also made considerable progress in their constitutional, political, economic and social development, and have gone a long way towards self-government. I urge you all to continue working together to find the appropriate format and timing for the completion of the decolonization process in each Territory.

I wish you a productive and successful seminar.

List of participants

Members of the Special Committee

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Margaret Hughes Ferrari (Chair) ^a
China	Bian Ge ^a
Chile	Antonio Cousiño
Congo	Luc Joseph Okio ^a (Vice-Chairman)
Côte d'Ivoire	Guillaume Bailly-Niagri ^a
Cuba	Rodrigo Malmierca Díaz ^a (Vice-Chairman)
Grenada (Host country)	Angus Friday Cyrilla R. Steele
Indonesia	Hari Prabowo
Islamic Republic of Iran	Hossein Maleki ^a
Russian Federation	Denis Paletskiy ^a
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Carlisle Richardson ^a
Timor-Leste	Sofia Borges

States Members of the United Nations

Algeria	Mahieddine Djeffal
Argentina	Gerardo Abel Diaz Bartolomé Ana Marcela Pastorino
Morocco	Souad El Alaoui Gajmoula Bent Ebi Kaltoum Al Khayat M. Khaddad el Moussaoui
Spain	Alberto Virella

Administering Powers

France (observer)	Gerard Guillet
United States of America (observer)	Edgar Johnson

^a Member of the official delegation of the Special Committee.

Non-Self-Governing Territories

Cayman Islands	Alden McLaughlin Orett Connor Suzanne Lookloy
Falkland Islands (Malvinas) ^b	Richard Davies
Gibraltar	Joseph Holliday Francis Cantos Perry Stieglitz RJM Garcia
Montserrat	David Brandt
Turks and Caicos Islands	Jeffrey C. Hall
Western Sahara	Ahmed Boukhari

Organizations of the United Nations system

United Nations Development Programme	Paula Mohamed
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	Ronald Williams

Non-governmental organizations

Anguilla National Council of Women (Anguilla)	Lana Hoyoung
Grenada Education and Development Programme (GRENEDE) (Grenada)	Dessima Williams Gloria Payne-Banfield

Experts

Nicole Philip (Grenada)
Howard Fergus (Montserrat)
Daniel Malcolm (Turks and Caicos Islands)
La Verne E. Ragster (United States Virgin Islands)
Tregenza A. Roach (United States Virgin Islands)

Observer

Joseph Bossano (Gibraltar)

^b A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).