

Distr. RESTRICTED  
CRS/2007/CRP.5

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SECOND INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM

Caribbean Regional Seminar on the implementation of the

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

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

BY THE HONOURABLE MR. ELVIN THORNTON

FOREIGN MINISTER OF GRENADA

Exccellencies,  
Representative of the Secretary-General,  
Delegates,  
Distinguished Guests,

spice and encourage you to find some time, in your busy  
schedule to experience the island's charm

The Government and people of Grenada are pleased to invite  
to host this United Nations Caribbean Regional Seminar

people. I am also pleased to see this  
Seminar for the second time. For in 1982 the First Caribbean

George C.

For us in the Caribbean, decolonisation of the remaining  
territories is viewed as unfinished business of the United  
Nations, and is integral to the successful completion of our  
regional integration process.

## Distinguished participants

community has come a long way. For in 1945, the

of the world's population lived in territories

dependent territories

Fortunately, Grenada can now boast of its independence.

Last February, Grenadians celebrated 22 years of independence.

The road was not always smooth and we are still faced with  
challenges, challenges to our quest for development, and  
sometimes frustrations with our aim to achieve a higher  
standard of living for our people.

Despite this, I can assure that maturing as a nation is essential

and that all the workers can enjoy and enjoy

Grenada's foreign policy is rooted in the fundamental principles

of human rights, the dignity and worth of human capital, with

equal rights for men and women of every nation, race or colour.

In keeping with this philosophy Grenada maintains a strong belief in the practice of democracy and is, therefore, committed

to the principles of self-determination of peoples.

decolonization. This commitment is exhibited in our membership, as well as, that of several Caribbean States on the Decolonization Committee at UN Headquarters.

As Caribbean people we are fully cognizant of the differences

between being dependent territories and being independent.

keeps one within a frame of direction and order which is a

large element of stability in the Caribbean area.

international affairs. It is a fact that we are exposed to

freedom as much as possible to the fullest extent possible

to a letter extent, economic course of our country.

The decolonisation of small island territories is a particular

challenge while the situation of larger territories is more

subject of sovereignty disputes, creates an added dynamic.

in addition in this era of integration there is a growing

that territories must face. The Caribbean is a region of

and regionalism. In this context some territories that are devoid

of the experience of self rule now fall within the ambit of

regional integration process of the 'parent state'.

This is but one challenge among many to be faced by non self governing states.

Regional seminars, as this one here in Grenada, must be the catalyst to recognize these territories which aspire to nationalize. This seminar must be a starting point in the process for these territories which aspire to self-determination.

Nations role in the decolonisation process serves as a

Distinguished participants

play in the self determination of the remaining territories

It is therefore critical for us to reaffirm that the time-honoured principles of absolute political equality are as relevant to the territories of absolute political equality as they were to the

political equality. I firmly believe small territories should not be

compromised.

Therefore, as you promote indigenous voices in the

decolonization process for the remaining small island territories,  
please bear in mind the longstanding OASD/CDC

"the principles of absolute political equality must continue to be  
the guiding standards applicable in the small island territories  
just as they were the standards to developing nations  
colonies.

The seminal work on these critical issues by OASD  
scholars, Sir Cedric Belfrage, Sir Carver Terrell and others should

have a prominent place in your deliberations.

We must continue to bear in mind that on the issue of  
contemporary decolonization, the international community can,  
and must, do better. But these issues can only be resolved  
through the concerted and consistent actions

that United Nations member states have adopted.

I challenge you at this session to focus considerable attention  
on ways to stimulate the United Nations

already approved for that purpose.

Wish you the participants all the best in your  
important deliberations during the *Caribbean Regional Seminar*

*the Eradication of Colonialism.*

Thank you.