

Distr. RESTRICTED
CRS/2007/DP.4

ORIGINAL • ENGLISH

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

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Anguilla

DISCUSSION PAPER

Madam Chairperson,

Distinguished Ministers, Representatives of the Non-Governmental Organizations,

Distinguished Delegates and Ambassadors

Experts, Non Government Organization

Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am indeed grateful to the to IIN Special Committee on Decolonization for giving the

Madam Chair on behalf of the Anguilla National Council of Women, Civil Society, the

People of Anguilla and by extension the Government of the British Overseas Territory of Anguilla

House of Assembly, We extend a hearty congratulations to you on your appointment as Chairperson for this Committee, we further salute you being a Caribbean woman.

Greetings, to one and all.

Madam Chair person It is by no means a share co-incident that this meeting is being convened in the month of May when within in days May 30th to be exact Anguilla will

celebrate 40 years of our road to self-determination. It means that the vision and

goals are etched in the hearts and minds of the Anguillians. It is especially

noteworthy, that the women of Anguilla were in the fore front of that landmark

event and we continue to keep the flame glowing in our quest for the realization of

that we will

our societies, we then must be fully part of the Decision Making Process. In other

words our women, our Youth must be empowered. Madam Chair I iterate that while we

openly accept the opportunity to discourse on the roles and perspectives of women in

decolonization, the theme is that of Decolonization, that remains inclusive of us all.

imposed upon us. It is within this context that this presentation embraces the views, the emotions and position of the various sectors of the Anguillian society committed to

Self Determination

Madam Chair it was in 1960 the publication of the 1960 "White Paper on Progress

for Progress and Prosperity: Britain and the Overseas Territories." whereby the

United Kingdom Government outlined a series of Constitutional Reviews

This brought about a new dimension. A new dimension was brought about by the fact that the United Kingdom Government for the Overseas Territories to...
 Independence, the United Kingdom Government...
 Overseas Territories...
 cast over the people's eyes, coupled by the fact that there was and is economic progress.
 Our people momentarily overlooked the other part of the agreement whereby the United

governance. This condition gave the Administering Power control over the Administration of Justice, Independence of the Judiciary, and Political impartiality of the Public Service. Madam Chair such an action in practice has led our people to...
 answerable to the Governor and often fill the position to act as Deputy Governor. The Territorial Government falls in the unpleasant situation of being the servant of the...
 Government.

Human Rights Conventions

Madam Chair in the extension of International Obligations and Conventions to us we still awaiting the extension of the three basic Human Rights Conventions namely (1) *International Convention on Civil and Political Rights*, (2) *The International Convention on Economic Social and Cultural Rights*, (3) *The Convention on the Elimination of all form of Discrimination Against Women*. We are aware that our Territorial Government has agreed to the extension of these vital extensions but to date nothing has happened. We cannot then exercise our basic rights to comply with article 1 of the International Civil and Political Rights. Instead Madam Chair we have been subjected to legislation by Order in Council in such culturally sensitive areas as the death penalty and homosexuality under the mistake belief that the alternatives in constitutional arrangements available to us were that of Independence or Rule by Order in Council. The British rightly call it the "Nuclear Option". As Dame Bernice Lake QC rightly put it "Rule by Order in Council is destructive of the people's spirit, identity and diversity. It is a nuclear threat of a magnitude equal to that struck Nagasaki and Hiroshima".

Major Chair the women of Anguilla and the Territorial Government made it clear to the UK Government that we reject Legislation by Order in Council. Given the back ground and history by which some of these instruments have been extended by Order in Council we are in the throats of Colonialism, a debate delivered in a voice and a culture. We have further through Media-education programmes made the people of Anguilla know of their rights to self-dignity and freedom. We have seen off what has been Human Rights taught in schools but until we have education in citizenship, planned and developed, public education programmes, be they seminars, forums, town hall meetings, groups visits, church gatherings, we are people in waiting.

Constitutional Reform

The Women of Anguilla sees Decolonization as a process whereby the people of New Britain were to be given a say in their own affairs. It was not until that historic meeting of the C24 held in Anguilla in 2003 did the British admit that the British was guilty of duplicity in withholding from us that they were mandated by that Resolution to leave with us a third option which covered Full Internal Self Government. They would hold for the fact that we should have been allowed to consider:

- (a) Independence, (b) Full Internal Self Government or (c) Colonialism by

...that the United Kingdom Government was given a new path...
 ...educating / constitutional modernization while at the same time prohibiting further examination and education of our choice to Self-Determination. Options that are available under the United Nations Charter Article 73, Resolution 1541. In is with in this blanket clouds of uncertainty that constitutional modernization is propelled by perceived economic boom that is taking place. Meanwhile, the UK Government is tightening its grasp on the people of Anguilla and by extension its territories by increasing the powers of the Governor. It is even perceived by some of our leaders that colonial mastery is the path for sound and stable economic growth. One of our...
 ...wrote "Anguillian politicians had come to relate colonialism and instability with independence". In addition our Chief Minister The Honourable Osbourne Fleming...

House of Assembly in attendance." The result is that these meetings are presently

the issues and dissatisfaction with the increased powers given to the Governor are being highlighted. Madam Chair amid these clouds the women of Anguilla are

but rather through the biblical strategy by going into the by ways and hedges to the people and to the masses.

Work

It is clear that our economic boom is not truly for the people instead we are losing our island and our people have little rights and protection in the workplace Madam Chair

on International Women Day March 8th 2007 when the NWC took up the call for Minimum wages. The rally was in the House of Parliament Madam Chair it was unbelievable rewarding when the workers kept calling about the violation of their

rights and wages. April 1st is Internationally recognized as Labour Day

and there was a national move to return to Labour Day highlighting the workers

rights and Labour Laws. Our people is awakening and we are prepared to deal with the issues facing our people in making their plea to self determination. Let me say we support Constitutional reform, but it must carry the voices of the people and can only be done when the people's human and democratic rights are articulated in a referendum, after a period of awareness and education

Madam Chair as women representing the largest sector of the population we call on

Deputy Head of the Overseas Territories, pledged where he assured the delegates that

education programmes in the OT's regarding the options specified under the O.T. Charter."

Present Situation

The British Government and the Territorial Governments in the process of Constitutional/ Modernization Advancement based on the 1990 "White Paper"

whereby we only have two options either Independence or retain the status quo of Integration that is colonial in nature. There was the Constitutional Committee that

ded ably and now the Mitchell's Commission that have set about to draft and make recommendations the constitution. The processes that are not pronelled by the

and stand in the gap for our people. We reject any false semblance of involvement of us women to make it appear gender equitable by appointing any

We believe we have the right to choose and the ability to choose our representation. We therefore call on our Administering Power and our

Government to recognize the linkage between the self determination process and that of Constitutional Reform for the realization of us women and the people of Anguilla as reinforced by the UN General Assembly as late as December 1965 which it stated.

" in the process of decolonization there is no alternative to the principle of self-reliance which is the basis of all relevant human right conventions.

Madam Chair we firmly believe that constitutional reform must be a true reflection of us being a people empowered for our self-determination and by that more power to govern

continue to educate our people identifying our values and culture. Madam Chair not in any effort to deviate from the topic but rather to emphasize the growing awareness one calypso released this week asked the question on our 40th Anniversary celebration "How do we get from that to this" it means people have sighted the off track as the

Madam Chair it is only fair, just and true to say that the Government and people of Anguilla are enjoying economic boom but only a little is really trickling down to the masses. There is a stark wide gap relationship with the UK Government whereby

Anguilla has made strides:

1. On the economic front as we do NOT depend or receive any grant Aid from Britain.
2. We in have a local appointed as our Deputy Governor and who further acts as Governor
3. Our children who are in the UK studies will be on the same level as those who is born in England
4. A airport has been built capable of take Jet aircrafts
5. Renovation and reconstruction of the seaports bringing them to standard for the

If by these by these apparent successes and milestones gives the clean of the

comply with in return, until we see the real response and demand compliance from Britain we are side tracking our road map of self determination.

Way Forward

Madam Chair as the Committee of 24 approach the end of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, we the women of Anguilla want to remind you that the process is far from complete but remains pivotal to the people of Anguilla as we continue to aspire to and will one day achieve. We therefore advocate:

- That the UN Special Committee of 24 beyond the Second Decade continue to monitor The Non Self Governing Territories beyond the Second Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism

- That the UN Special Committee seek permission from the Administering Powers of the Territories to establish Local Points in each Territory for education programmes as needed by the people

- Be known that we women of Anguilla confirm that we are not ready to be delisted

associated with be called upon to assist the territories in the process of self-

determination

Madam Chair we do not wish to see the Territory of Anguilla remain on a perceived comfort zone that appears to blind our vision of the 1967 that of SRI F
 2017 and 2018 but is rather propelled by the affirmation of the Administering
 Power that they have no obligation to honour any mandate by UNL unless we locate
 as the seat of justice and freedom for all. We therefore conclude Madam Chair that
 while there is action going on in the territory, it is evasive of the people's rights and
 to date we see Anguilla should NOT be delisted from the UNL.

I thank you