

Caribbean Regional Seminar on the implementation of the Second

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

of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Statement by

M. H. M. M. M.

COUNSELLOR

"The Caribbean regional seminar on
the Caribbean regional seminar on

Eradication of Colonialism:

next steps in decolonization"

22-24 May 2007

Saint George's, Grenada

*In the name of God, the Commission, the Ministry
of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Education*

Madam Chairperson,

Distinguished delegates,

At the outset I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your able

seriousness in assisting the decolonization process move forward. My thanks also

goes to the colleagues in Secretariat of C24 for their excellent arrangement of this regional seminar.

I sincerely appreciate the government and the people of Grenada for hosting this important regional seminar on the implementation of the Second International

Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism of which we are all hopeful to take next appropriate step in decolonization to realize the wishes of the people living in non-self governing territories. The warm hospitality of the people of Grenada and the

image of their beautiful country will be certainly remained in my mind for ever. I wish them all happiness, prosperity and success in all aspects of life.

Madam Chairperson,

The Islamic Republic of Iran sticks to its position that all non-self-governing territories are entitled to choose freely their political future to decide about their own future- without any foreign intervention or being forced from abroad. In this regard, Iran believes that the issue of decolonization should remain on the agenda of the United Nations as one of the important priorities- as long as millions of peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories expect the United Nations to guide and assist them to get rid of the scourge of colonialism in all its manifestations and remove all practices of segregation and discrimination associated therewith from the face of our planet.

The United Nations has witnessed the suffering of millions of people under colonization, including the people of Grenada who are now battling to attain their right of self-determination and gain independence. When the United Nations was established in 1945, almost 1 billion people (about 750 million people) lived in Territories that were non-self-governing, dependent on colonial Powers. Today, less than 2 million people live in such Territories. However, such a large number of people still live in the shadow of colonialism. We believe that all countries should bear responsibility in helping the remaining Territories to make a right decision about their future political systems: independence, free association, or full integration. The Islamic Republic of Iran is committed to cooperate with and join other Member States in the various initiatives aimed at eradication of colonialism in all its forms.

Madam Chairperson,

Decolonization is a process that needs a full commitment from all Member States. It is a process that can bring about positive results. Therefore, as a right step in this regard, all Member States should establish an official, serious and respectful relationship with the Special Committee on Decolonization. One area of cooperation the C24 has been

colonial territories. This seminar will certainly raise the public awareness among the peoples about their rights and the available options and the necessary action they may take in this regard.

In closing, Madam Chairperson, we hope that the discussions in this seminar- as expected- can assist the Special Committee to make a realistic analysis and evaluation of the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. Iran as one of the representatives of the peoples of these territories, in the interest of the views of the people of non-self-governing territories, to better work in the Committee to realize the wishes and aspirations of millions of

Thank you