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SECOND INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM

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

Administrator of Tokelau



Delivered by the Secretary of the Special Committee, Mr. Sergei Chazov

Tokelau, its administration by New Zealand since 1926, and efforts that both Tokelau and New Zealand are taking to ensure the people of Tokelau have the best

UN Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for many years. At the Committee's Pacific Regional Seminar in Fiji last November Tokelau's experiences, including its then recently held referendum on self-determination, were a focus of discussions.

It was appropriate that it should be and I was grateful for the opportunity to be

this. In just over a month we will be with you in New York and be able to participate in the meeting of the Committee. Then we will be pleased to explain recent developments relating to Tokelau. A second reason is the distance. In anyone's language it is a very long way from the Pacific to the Caribbean - more than 24 hours

you but can not on this occasion.

Notwithstanding our absence, I am pleased to have this opportunity to update members of the Committee and representatives of territories covered by the work of the Committee on recent developments in Tokelau's self-determination efforts. I thank the Secretariat for being willing to bring this statement to the attention of the Seminar

Committee, including documentation for the forthcoming session next month, have set out in considerable detail the activities leading to the February 2006 Referendum and the outcome of it.

While sixty percent of voters supported a change of status to that of self-government in free association with New Zealand, the same status as that of Niue and the Cook Islands, the required two-thirds majority for a change of status for Tokelau

the atolls of Tokelau decided not to move to self-government?

vary. In my view two points deserve to be highlighted here. First, the voters of Tokelau gave insufficient support for a change of status in February 2006. That was their right

important was the decision of the Tokelau General Fono to set the date for a second referendum. That will be in the first week of November this year.

In response to this decision by the General Fono New Zealand committed to supporting this referendum in similar fashion to the first one. The draft Constitution and the draft Treaty of Free Association remain on the table. The substantial financial support provided by New Zealand to Tokelau continues, as does our commitment to

months ahead are used well to ensure that those who vote next November in this act

We will also have acted in full compliance with the objectives of this Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

I am pleased to be able to say that preparations for the November 2007

ensure voter registration is of a high standard and that all eligible voters on Tokelau

Alongside this work with the voters of Tokelau, the Council for the Pacific

contribute better to the self-determination process. Those who have followed the Tokelau process closely over recent times will recall that a major issue before the first referendum was a decision taken by Tokelau that only those usually resident in

communities in several Australian centres. The "residence on Tokelau" requirement for the referendum created some tensions within the wider Tokelauan community – what is coming increasingly to be referred to as "the family of Tokelau" – and it is clear that

the wider family of Tokelau and so earlier this year undertake an extensive programme of meetings with Tokelauan communities outside Tokelau. Meetings have been held in Australia, New Zealand, and elsewhere. Meetings have been held with Council members – the three Faipule of Tokelau supported by the three Pulemuku – set out what the coming referendum would mean. Considerable effort, including through power point presentations, was put in to addressing issues of concern that had been identified from the earlier referendum process.

It is clear that this extensive process of consultation has been appreciated by the

disagreement about the restriction of voting rights to those residing on the atolls. This
has been encouraging in the far greater understanding of what it would mean – and equally what it would not mean. Tokelauans will continue to retain New
Zealand citizenship and their unfettered right of access to New Zealand. Current levels
of support for the Government would be maintained. The Government would be the removal of the seat of Administration from the atolls.

I have explained this phase of the preparatory process in more detail as an essential part of ensuring that all possible aspects of the
future of Tokelau as a country will be taken into account. New Zealand understands and accepts that the
"family of Tokelau" New Zealand understands and accepts that the
Zealand are committed to ensuring that these are protected and enhanced.

colonization must come to an end. It is essential that the international community –
administering powers, UN member states and international organisations –
acknowledge clearly the necessity of the

I look forward to hearing the outcomes of your deliberations and to having the
opportunity to discuss them further and in depth at next month's Committee meeting in
New York.