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SECOND INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM

Caribbean regional seminar on the implementation of the Second International Decade

CARIBBEAN REGIONAL SEMINAR OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF 24

Frigate Bay, St. Kitts and Nevis

12 to 14 May 2009

TEXT OF ADDRESS

BY

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**MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
ISLAND OF ST. HELENA
SOUTH ATLANTIC OCEAN**

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the privilege and opportunity to address this Committee.

To reach here from the Island of St. Helena it is 12,000 miles.

The Island of St Helena was discovered in the sixteenth century and had no indigenous

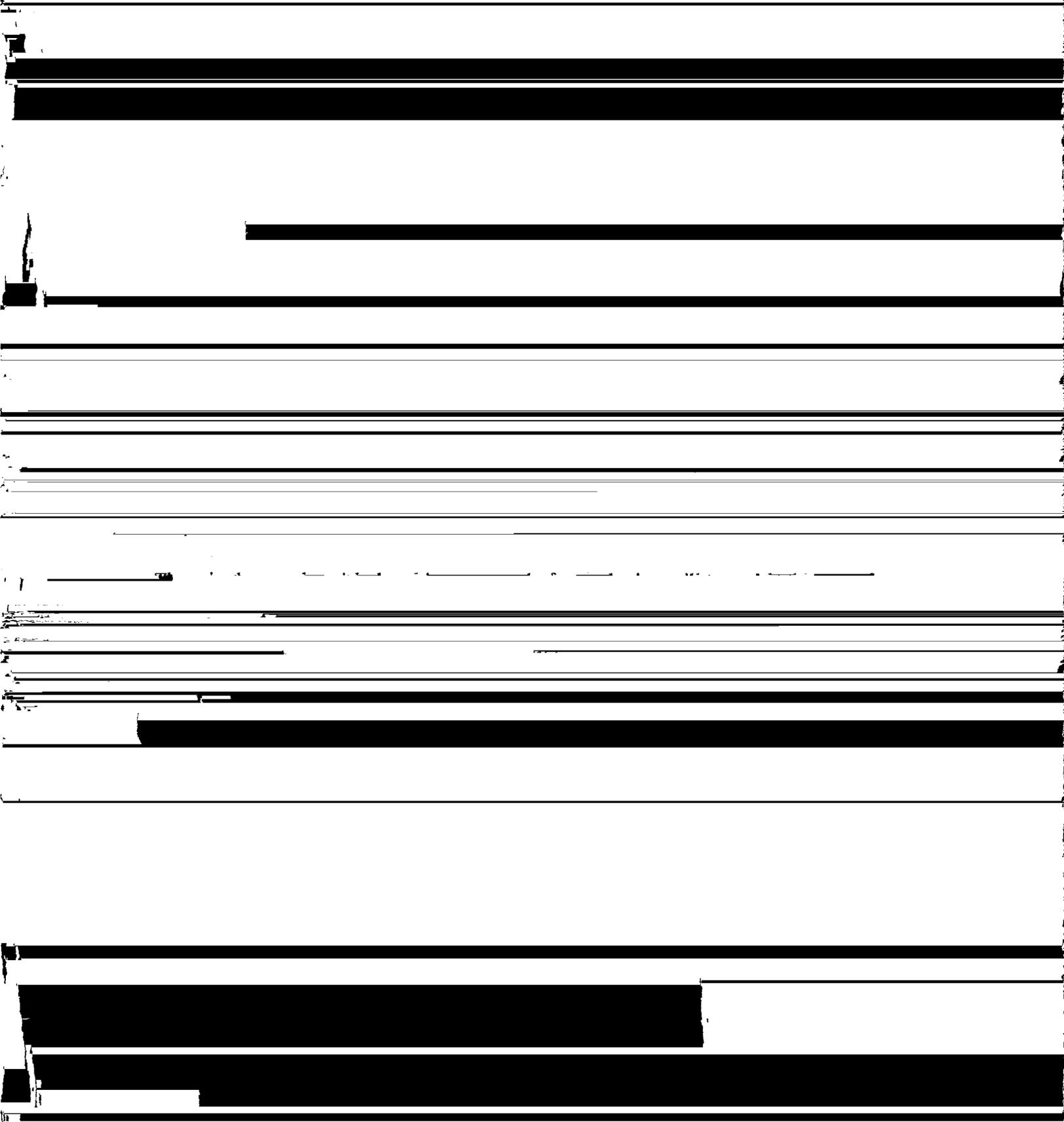
In St. Helena, politics have not significantly progressed over the last twenty years and the

draft constitution do not appear on the face of it to allow more accountability by individual elected members.

A new partnership with increased accountability for elected representatives for local affairs would need to benefit from increased economic activity. It is to that subject that I now turn.

Economic activity on the Island is very low. I mentioned earlier how small and isolated St. Helena is and that we have the increasing problem of communication with the

comprehensively over many years and it was Britain's experts themselves who identified that the aim of the programme was to establish a...



The assessments made by Britain herself show that long term economic sustainability is solely dependent on air access. No other option would have the long term effect of significantly reducing and hopefully eventually eliminating the need for grant in aid.

These were the findings of Britain's own experts and it is a point that is not denied in the new consultation document recently produced by Britain.

St. Helena has made great strides to meet its side of the bargain. We want to be party to decisions that makes our Island less financially dependent on Britain. If the 'pause' does not come to an end now it will inevitably mean that our society will dwindle even further both in terms of its population and its economy.

We, the people of St. Helena, therefore seek the UN's support in urging the British Government to honour its obligations under article 73 (e) included amongst which is to promote to the utmost the well being of the inhabitants. That our interests will be best served by having a special relationship with Britain and rather than wither and die, also ~~grant us now~~ an airport which will serve the interests of both St. Helena and Britain