United Nations Nations Unies
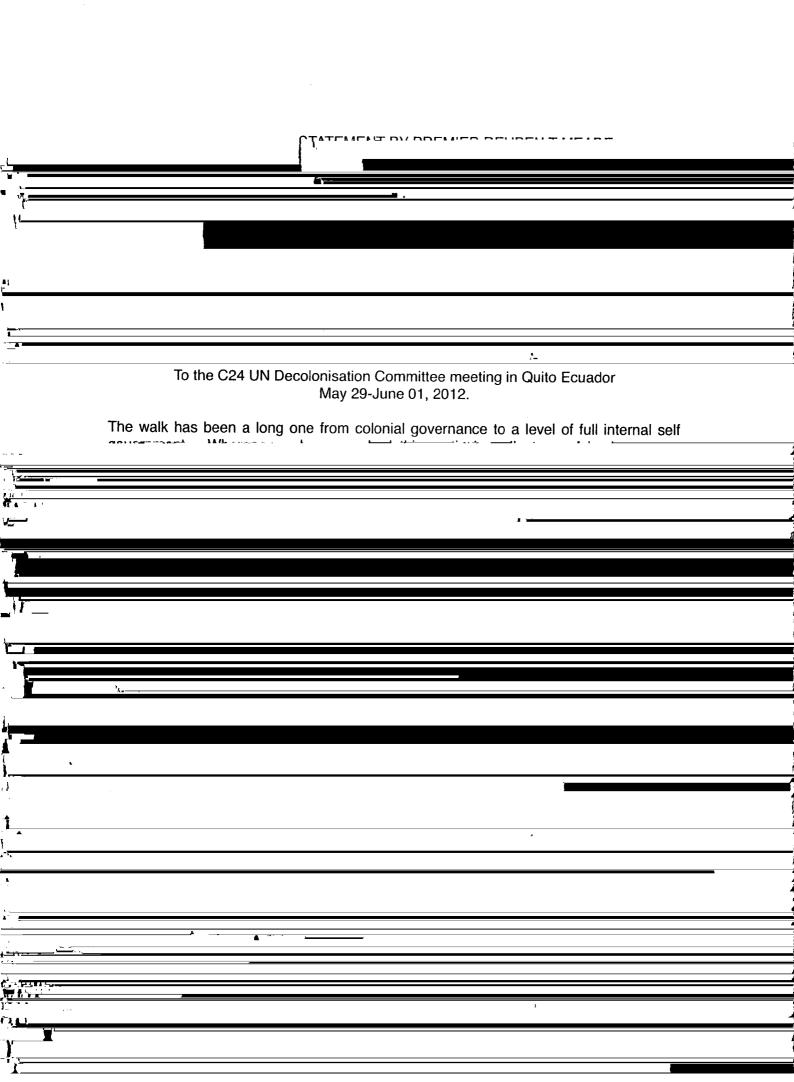
THIRD INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM

Pacific regional seminar on the implementation of the Third International Decade for
the Eradication of Colonialism: current realities and prospects
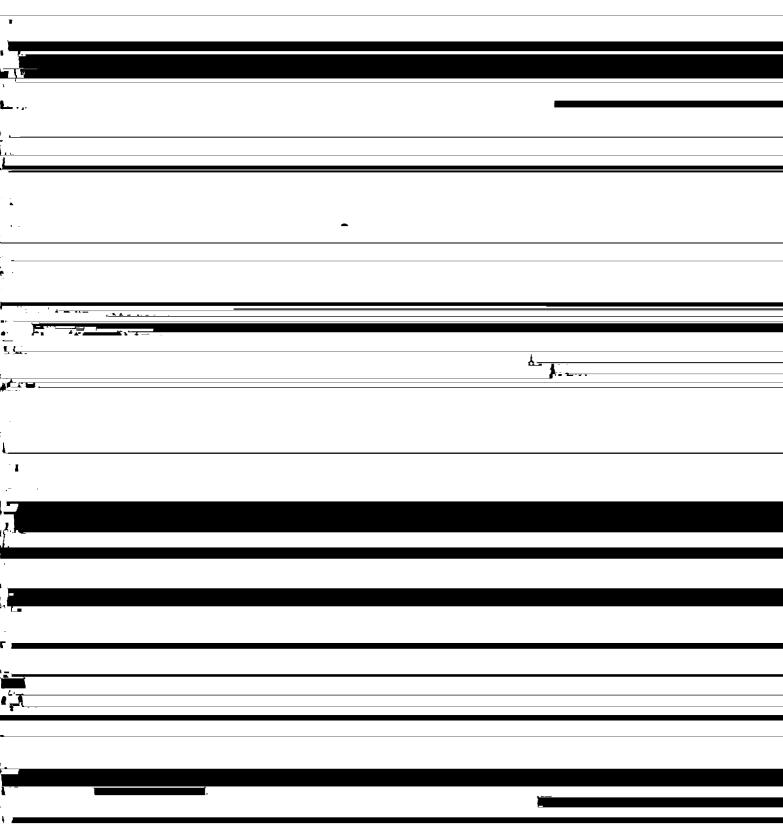
Quito, Ecuador
30 May to 1 June 2012

STATEMENT

BY

To the C24 UN Decolonisation Committee meeting in Quito Ecuador
May 29-June 01, 2012.

The walk has been a long one from colonial governance to a level of full internal self

operate under that first constitution order. There was really no local consultation or debate it was simply an order of the Privy Council. That constitution was a retrograde step in that it took away the portfolio of offshore banking from the authority of the local government and placed it under the discretionary powers of the governor.

Where have we come in the 60 years since the commencement of the Ministerial System of governance?

This new constitution (2010) like its predecessors is not a perfect document but we must use its provisions to consolidate the gains provided therein. We must continue to determine a way forward over time. We must however, not lose sight of the focus on development rather than

The process of revision started in 1999 with the advent of the so called White Paper on the Overseas Territories. In 2002 however, another Legislator and myself were given the task of commencing the process on behalf of the Legislative Council.

Union. Despite the fact that the Police and the Public Service are within the Governor's remit, we pay their bills and as a consequence exercise a major voice in their management. All executive decisions are made by the local Cabinet of Ministers. We have on 1st May 2012, signed a MoU with the Department for International Development which focuses on Montserrat's sustainable development plan. This

I suggest therefore that this committee focus it's resources on sustainable development issues in the Montserrat context. Let us use the democratic process and let the people decide. The people must be given a choice which they will freely make. They have made their choice and do not need this committee to create the myth that we are held in