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Distr. RESTRICTED  
CRS/2013/DP.6

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

THIRD INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM

Caribbean regional seminar on the implementation of the Third International Decade  
for the Eradication of Colonialism: first quarter review of developments and trends

Quito, Ecuador  
28 to 30 May 2013

DISCUSSION PAPER

PRESENTATION

BY

MR. RICHARD ARIIHAU TUHEIAVA

(FRENCH POLYNESIA)

**Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation  
of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and**

**Peoples**

**"Question of French Polynesia"**

**Statement by Hon. Richard Ariihau TUHEIAVA**

Mr. Chairman, Your Excellency Ambassador Diego Morejon-Pazmiño of the Republic of Ecuador

Representatives of U.N. member states,

Distinguished representatives of non-self-governing territories, and members of this Seminar,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am Richard Tuheiava, elected member of French Polynesia in the French Senate, and also elected member of the House of Assembly of French Polynesia from the Group "Union for Democracy" (UPLD). It is indeed my privilege, on behalf of the UPLD political alliance led by the Hon. Oscar Manutehi TEMARU, to extend best wishes to the distinguished members

The resumed international oversight of the self-determination process of French Polynesia has finally come after the unilateral de-listing without a General Assembly resolution

of both New Caledonia and French Polynesia from the U.N. list back in 1947. The General Assembly corrected the omission from the list of New Caledonia in 1986 with its adoption of

resolution 41/41 of 1986. It is only in 2012 that the General Assembly adopted resolution 67/19

First: if the process is to proceed to a genuine act of self-determination exercised by the Ma'ohi people of French Polynesia, in the light of resolution 67/265, such **eligibility criteria**

unduly influenced by the participation of recent settlers whose right to self-determination had long been exercised in Europe.

Mr. Chairman, allow me to strongly state that such eligibility criteria in French Polynesia is critical for the achievement of a **fair and equitable self determination process** to take place in my Country. should this criteria be set in parallel with the implementation

assistance is provided and specific economic and social measures are achieved locally, prior to the Self determination referendum.

**Mr. Chairman,**

I emphasized these three points in the context of the recent advocacy by the recently elected territorial government of French Polynesia, in early May 2013, that the French expedite the organization of a self determination referendum in the territory designed to legitimize the status quo territorial arrangements and with the deliberate inclusion of French or European

settlers. This is an unacceptably distorted process, and is radically inconsistent with the established and internationally recognized precedents for the self-determination of New Caledonia.

Such recognized precedents include :

1. the conduct of a genuine political education program with direct UN support;

- **Fair and equitable compensation** of the health and environmental consequences of the French nuclear testings in French Polynesia,
- legal competency on deep-sea or terrestrial **strategic minerals** within the Economic Exclusive Zone of French Polynesia,
- **positive labour discrimination** in favour of locals, to be set,

land tenure and division to

- legal competency on **control of immigration**, and **visas deliveries** for non EU citizens,
- legal recognition of the **Tahitian language** as second official one in French Polynesia,

- Whereas the provision of article 73 of the U.N. Charter asserts the **priority of the interests of the inhabitants** of the self-governing territories, beyond those of their administering powers, the current provision of article 74 of the French Constitution under which French Polynesia is placed shows that the particular interests of this french overseas collectivity need to be considered within the

French Republic. Therefore, the unilateral authority of the administering power still exists and is subject to political variations.

• Whereas the annexation of the French overseas territories to the French Republic



Polynesia – remains fully in the hands of the administering power.

- the determination of the **local currency**, which is different from the EU currency, however is not controlled by the local elected government of French Polynesia.