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THIRD INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM

5-16/18 2017

**ST VINCENT & THE
GRENADINES**

**UN REGIONAL
SEMINAR 2017**

MINISTER JOSEPH JOHN BOGGS M.A. M.P.

Mr Chairman,

Although I know only too well that it will have no effect on the deliberations of the C24, or change one iota its position on the right to self-determination of our People, this seminar needs to know that our neighbour, the Kingdom of Spain, has taken the step of attempting to bend our will, by the use of blackmail, contrary to its obligation under article 74 of the charter.

They should know us better by now.

They should have learned by now, that we are a true People under colonial rule, committed to the defence of our human rights, in particular, our right to self-determination, and that we shall stand steadfast and defend our right to the land of our fathers.

The only land that we have had and known for 313 years, free from Spanish domination.

~~We shall remain free and defend our freedom~~

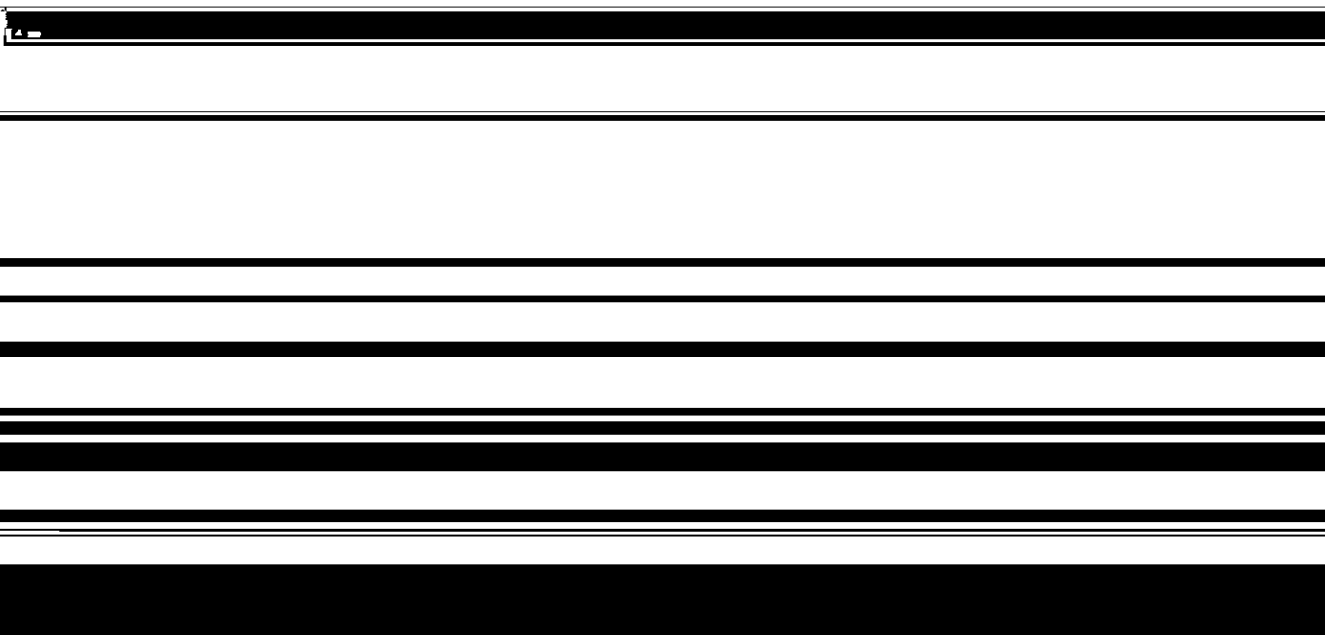
We shall not be bought, and we shall not be intimidated, powerful and hostile though our neighbour, may be.

We shall not waver in our resolve, because we know who we are.

Now it is not something that Spain wants to impose on us, it is an opening position for discussion with UK and we are invited to participate as if we were a part of UK.

This, despite the fact that both C24 and Spain argue we are not part of UK.

Both are right of course, because if we were then the "Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and Peoples," would not apply to us, and you have always stated that it does. This means and can only mean, that Gibraltar is a colonial country and that Gibraltar is not part of the UK.



The new Spanish proposal will go nowhere, because it is merely, a repetition of what has already been rejected in the past.

Spain in 2002 almost reached agreement with UK on a possible sharing of sovereignty over Gibraltar.



Morrell has explained that the joint committee status would transfer the status of the

UK now exercises in retaining control over and responsibility for our defence and in acting for us in respect

I therefore call on the seminar rapporteur to clearly reflect in the record that is finally put together in New York the analysis I have provided and ensure that no step is taken to commit the C24 to supporting the Spanish proposal.

The committee's role is not to concern itself with competing real estate claims but with the rights of Peoples

~~who do not enjoy full self-government and to help them obtain it.~~

We are one of the 17 such Peoples and the C24 continues to fail to do its duty by us.

From those of you who have emerged from colonial status, where we still are, it is an attitude that is indefensible.

But because we still are like you were once a complaining colonial People, we shall never give up