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THIRD INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM

Pacific regional seminar on the implementation of the Third International Decade for

Pacific Regional Seminar of the Special Committee of 24

Quito, Ecuador

Adopting the protocol already established, I wish to thank the Organization for the efficient coordination of arrangements for our attendance at the Forum. In my capacity as Independent Legal Counsel to the Chief Minister, the Honourable Hubert Hughes I wish to convey his regrets at not being able to be here in person. Today, as we sit here this 30th day of May, Anguilla is actually celebrating its 45th Anniversary of a Revolution which was reflective of their struggle for a better relationship with the Administering Power and a better change in their circumstances as a Territory. I do on his behalf and on behalf of the People of Anguilla offer you warm greetings from the Territory of Anguilla.

For the Government of Anguilla, I am, Sir, very truly yours,

which were unable to exercise full independent statehood, including a seat at the UN and conduct of their foreign affairs and for the UK which was inhibited from exercising its responsibilities for good governance in the territories concerned.”

As a result of that statement, we the People of Anguilla see ourselves on a direct collision course with the Administering Power since in the view of our People, they have seen the worst manifestations of true colonialism sanctioned by the British Government through their current Representative against the current Elected Government. We have seen the direct opposite of

exercising good governance in the Territory and as such our People are therefore adamant that the current Constitution or anything that maintains the current balance of powers so greatly in the favour of the Administering Power cannot be retained. Again although there is no official poll there is the consensus that our People are leaning in a positive direction towards Independence. We

mean that the 2nd Option of free association or full internal self-government is off the table.

There is a litany of examples of the actions of the Representative of the Administering Power

of the standards which the Administration Deems are those which will be the

- (iii) preventing any borrowing even though the prevailing Economics approach is that there needs to be some borrowing to inject some movement in the Economy.

Anguilla does not have the safety nets to take care of the fallout. Today, the Administering

Power has entered a double-dipped recession, and had we in Anguilla subscribed to their Economic thinking, we would quite naturally be in a worst position than we already are given our even greater fragility – but yet, the stricture of the Administering Power remains and in creative ways we are constantly being hamstrung and not allowed to handle our own affairs.

We submit that in the Supervisory Role of the Administering Power, there has to be a balance struck, and a balance that should always be in the favour of the People of the Territory; a balance that allows a prudent Government to continue to work out the mandate of the People that have elected them and only when that comes into question the ‘supervision’ of the Administering Power should then supercede. For Anguillians, that balance is not being struck in their favour and it leaves them feeling that there is more direct control through the Administering Power than the strong mandate which they gave to their Elected Representatives being worked out. We are feeling the full brunt of colonial tactics that favour the Administering Power.

The United Kingdom's Support to our Deliberations

"It follows that a new Constitution will be drafted by the constitutional experts in the

FCO..."

is the kind of indignity that creates further tensions. We are a Territory that had its original Constitution drafted on its soil by its own Eminent Counsel and for the Administering Power to assume and no doubt insist that our Constitution be drafted by them highlights, in our view, the deepest trappings of Colonialism. A Constitution should spring **FROM** its People and be **OF** the People.

Support of Common Principles of Democracy, Human Rights and the Rule of Law and Good Governance

We have had no major issues with the Administering Power in the area of Human Rights other than that we view many of the overall inconsistencies in the relationship as being an overarching domination and exploitation of our People and therefore a denial of our Human Right not to be

was requested by the Present Administration of the Territory has been denied. Likewise there has been no proposal for assistance in any form that may allow us to recover exorbitant amounts

which could possibly be due to our Treasury. Again, it makes good governance seem a farce.

Has there been a removal of full autonomy as an Option by the Administering Power?

In the current climate in Anguilla where the discussion of Independence seems on the lips of the