

Distr. RESTRICTED
CRS/2015/CRP.10

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: the United Nations at 70: taking
stock of the decolonization agenda**

**Managua, Nicaragua
19 to 21 May 2015**

STATEMENT BY

MR. EDWARD A. ALVAREZ

(GUAM)

HAFADA CHAIRMAN MENDOZA. FIRST OFF, OUR GOVERNOR, EDDIE BAZA CALVO SENDS WARM REGARDS TO YOU AS CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE OF 24! OUR DELEGATION AFFIRMS THAT THESE ARE EXCITING TIMES FOR DECOLONIZATION ON GUAM AS WE APPEAR TO PUSHING OUR EFFORTS FURTHER COMPARED TO THE LAST 20 YEARS. WE HOPE THE COMMITTEE CONTINUES TOWARD THE PATH OF DECOLONIZING THE REST OF THE NON SELF GOVERNING TERRITORIES AND THAT WHILE WE ARE HALFWAY THROUGH THIS DECADE, IN OUR OPINION, THERE HAS BEEN PROGRESS AND WE APPLAUD AND ENCOURAGE THIS TO FURTHER DEVELOP UNDER YOUR LEADERSHIP.

IN THE CASE OF GUAM, I AM PROUD TO REPORT THAT FOR THE FIRST IN ALMOST 20 YEARS, THE GUAM COMMISSION ON

DECOLONIZATION HAS A BUDGET OF ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS TO BEGIN THE PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAM THAT WE COULD ONLY TALK ABOUT FOUR YEARS AGO. ADDITIONALLY, WE HAVE ANOTHER TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS REQUEST FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016 AND WILL REQUEST EVEN MORE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017. I BELIEVE OUR GOVERNOR AND LEGISLATURE WILL SUPPORT OUR FINANCIAL REQUESTS AND THE COMMISSION WILL PUT IT TO THE BEST USE.

SO FAR THERE ARE SEVERAL PROPOSALS ON THE CUE TO BE DISCUSSED AND APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION RELATIVE TO OUR PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAM. ONE SUCH PROPOSAL INVOLVES PARTNERING UP WITH OUR PUBLIC BROADCAST SYSTEM (PBS) TO PRODUCE PROGRAMMING THAT WILL AIR ON ALL OUR PUBLIC ACCESS CHANNELS AND HOPEFULLY THOSE CHANNELS OWNED BY OUR TWO CABLE TELEVISION STATIONS. FOR NOW, THE PLAN IS TO PRODUCE AT LEAST THREE HALF HOUR PROGRAMS WHICH WILL FOCUS ON THREE THEMES. THE FIRST WILL BE ABOUT THE DECOLONIZATION PROCESS, WHAT IT IS AND HOW STEP BY STEP WE GET THROUGH THE ENTIRE PROCESS. OUR COMMISSION IS CURRENTLY UNDERTAKING THIS TASK AND I HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED TO GIVE A THOROUGH EXPLANATION OF THE PROCESS. THE SECOND PROGRAM WILL BE ABOUT THE STATUS OPTIONS WHEREIN THE THREE TASK FORCE CHAIRMAN'S WILL EXPLAIN AS BEST THEY CAN WHAT THEIR STATUS OPTION IS ABOUT AND WHAT IT BRINGS TO THE TABLE RELATIVE TO THE ELEMENTS CONTAINED IN THE DECOLONIZATION PROCESS. SO EACH CHAIRMAN WILL EXPLAIN HOW THEIR STATUS OPTION WILL EFFECT SUCH ELEMENTS AS IMMIGRATION, TAXATION, LABOR, AND TRADE AND COMMERCE ON GUAM. THE THIRD PROGRAM WILL BE ABOUT WHO WE ARE. WHO ARE THE PEOPLE OF GUAM AND WHO IS INVOLVED IN THIS PROCESS AND WHY IS IT SO VITAL TO GET INVOLVED IN THE EFFORT. ALSO, IT WILL RECOUNT OUR POLITICAL HISTORY AND SET UP THE FOUNDATION FOR FUTURE PROGRAMMING.

CHAIRMAN MENDOZA, WE ARE DOING OUR SHARE TO REACH OUR GOALS AND OBJECTIVES WHEN IT COMES TO OUR DECOLONIZATION PROCESS, BUT WE CAN CERTAINLY USE SOME MORE HELP. OUR COMMISSION PLANS ON SUBMITTING ANOTHER GRANT PROPOSAL THIS YEAR TO THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR AND WOULD APPRECIATE ANY ASSISTANCE THIS COMMITTEE CAN PROVIDE.

ANOTHER ISSUE I WISH TO EXPOUND ON IS THE RECENT DECISION BY THE U.S. NINTH CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS WHO RULED THAT MR. ARNOLD DAVIS'S CASE CAN MOVE FORWARD. IN SHORT, PLAINTIFF DAVIS ATTEMPTED TO REGISTER ON THE GUAM DECOLONIZATION REGISTRY AND WAS DENIED AND HE APPEALED. I DON'T THINK THIS

WAS THE INTENTION OF THE UN CHARTER AND I DON'T BELIEVE WHEN THE CHARTER WAS CRAFTED THAT ANY MAJOR ADMINISTERING POWER BROUGHT OUT THEIR CONSTITUTION OR GOVERNING ACT AND STATED THAT THEY HAD AN ISSUE WITH DECOLONIZATION. ISN'T THE DECOLONIZATION PROCESS A HUMAN RIGHT? IF SO, THEN IS SOMETHING WRONG IN MAKING IT A CIVIL RIGHT? ALSO, I DON'T THINK IT IS PROPER TO HAVE ANY PART OF OUR SELF-DETERMINATION SETTLED IN COURT AS I'M UNDER THE IMPRESSION THE DECOLONIZATION PROCESS IS SOMETHING THAT SHOULD BE FREE FLOWING, WITHOUT COERCION OR INFLUENCE FROM ANY ENTITY.

CHAIRMAN MENDOZA, IN LIGHT OF ALL THE ABOVE, I RESPECTFULLY REMIND THE COMMITTEE TO FOLLOW THROUGH WITH THE RESOLUTIONS IT HAS PASSED THROUGHOUT THE DECADES. THE PEOPLE OF GUAM ARE STILL HOPEFUL THIS ISSUE WILL BECOME REALITY AND IT IS ONLY RIGHT THAT GUAM AND THE OTHER REMAINING NON-SELF GOVERNING TERRITORIES EXERCISE THIS INALIENABLE RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION, SOMETHING WE ALL SHOULD OF DONE LONG AGO.

FURTHERMORE, THERE IS STILL THIS SENSE OF URGENCY TO EXPEDITE THIS PROCESS AND BRING THIS MATTER FROM THOUGHT TO THEME AND FROM THEME TO RESOLUTION. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT ALL THE REMAINING TERRITORIES HAVE MORE THAN EARNED THIS RIGHT THROUGH HISTORICAL SUFFERANCE, BUT THIS IS THE VERY REASON THE COMMITTEE EXISTS AND I HOPE WE ALL AGREE THAT ANOTHER DECADE TO ERADICATE COLONIALISM ONLY LENDS ITSELF TO JUSTICE ONCE AGAIN DENIED! AND THIS IS A ROAD NONE OF US WANT TO GO DOWN.

IN CLOSING, I WANT TO REITERATE THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT THE ELECTORAL OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS BEGIN TO SUPPLY INFORMATION ON THE POLITICAL STATUS OPTIONS, SINCE THE LACK OF THIS IS WHAT IMPEDES THE TERRITORIES FROM UNDERSTANDING MORE ABOUT THE

THREE STATUS OPTIONS. THE LACK OF THIS FUNDAMENTAL INFORMATION IS WHAT STYMIES GUAM AND IMPEDES OUR PATH

TO DECOLONIZATION, AND IN THE END, TERRITORIES WILL END UP TAKING THIS ON WITH LIMITED RESOURCES.

2. THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ENDORSE A WORK PROGRAM FOR THE DECOLONIZATION OF EACH TERRITORY. THIS CANNOT

GO FORWARD WITHOUT THE ADMINISTERING POWER FURNISHING INFORMATION ON THE TERRITORY. THUS, THE PROCESS

BECOMES QUITE LIMITED, AND IN THE END, NEVER IMPLEMENTED.

3. THAT THE CONDUCT OF PERIODIC ANALYSIS BE UNDERTAKEN ON THE PROGRESS AND EXTENT OF THE DECOLONIZATION

DECLARATION IN EACH TERRITORY. WHILE WORKING PAPERS ARE IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS, THEY ARE NOT THE TYPE OF

DOCUMENTS CALLED FOR IN THE RESOLUTIONS. WITHOUT SUCH ANALYSIS, IT IS DIFFICULT FOR MEMBER STATES TO

UNDERSTAND HOW NON SELF GOVERNING TERRITORIES HAVE TAKEN OVER TIME DUE TO THE LACK OF IMPLEMENTATION

OF DECOLONIZATION RESOLUTIONS.

4. FINALLY, AND ONCE AGAIN, WE CALL ON THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GENERAL

ASSEMBLY, AND IMPLEMENT THEM AS A MATTER OF URGENCY. OTHERWISE, THE ROLE OF OUR DECOLONIZATION WILL FADE

INTO LESSER IMPORTANCE, AND THE TENDENCY TO LEGITIMIZE THE UNEQUAL TERRITORIAL RELATIONSHIPS MAY BE TOO

DIFFICULT TO RESIST.

CHAIRMAN MENDOZA, THANK YOU ONCE AGAIN FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO TESTIFY HERE TODAY. WE HOPE THE WORK OF THIS COMMITTEE AND OUR TESTIMONY WILL SERVE AS A FOUNDATION FOR ACTION TO BE TAKEN IN A TIMELY MATTER. THANK YOU!