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United Nations

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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SECOND INTER-COMMUNAL MEETING ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COLONIAL

Caribbean Regional Seminar on the implementation of the Second

International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism

St. George's, Grenada

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Statement by the Hon. Mr. ...

(Saint Helena)

Madam Chairperson,
Honourable Members,
Distinguished Guests

Firstly, I would like to repeat the words of previous speakers in expressing

my thanks and appreciation to the Government of Canada and the

organizers, the United Nations, for inviting me as a politician from St

Helena to address you.

Contrary to most of the previous speakers, we on St. Helena at this moment

Aided and do not have the means to generate sufficient income to maintain

the standard to which we have become accustomed.

With regard to decolonisation, hasn't Britain already complied to our

wishes, since we are no longer colonies but Overseas Territories, hence the

Helena and Montserrat are the only two Grant Aided Overseas Territories

Personally, I do not mind being called a beggar, as long as I am a successful

one. However, before the seminar is over, Montserrat and St-Helena will be

coming around with the hat, please give generously. My begging and that of

my colleagues must have worked, since Britain has agreed to finance the

building of an airport, estimated cost of £100 Million. I have listened to the

statement from the Argentine regarding the Malvenas (Falkland Island). I

have to declare my interest on behalf of St. Helena because we have some

600 saints working there, which is beneficial to the Falklands and St.

Helena. Once the airport is built, it should be easier for St. Helena to attend,

~~we are not a member of the ECOW. However, during my 20 years as a~~

~~politician I have always adapted the formula that if the British Government~~

disapproves of any action all the more reason you should do it.

Once again, may I express my thanks and appreciation for the invitation to

~~be here and address you. It took me eight days to get here but it is well~~

worth it.

~~I will end by offering my commiserations to my West Indian colleagues on~~

~~the performance of their cricket team in the World Cup, with one regret that~~

~~the series of one Brian Charles Lara with a~~

suggestion that he be offered the post of Governor on one of the islands,
after all he would not be any worse than some of those we have had to serve
with over the years.

Madam Chairperson Honourable Members, this honour from St. Helena

thanks you all for the privilege of addressing you and wishes you well for
your efforts in the future.