

• Distr. RESTRICTED  
PRS/2012/CRP.9

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

THIRD INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM

Pacific regional seminar on the implementation of the Third International Decade for  
the Eradication of Colonialism: current realities and prospects

Quito, Ecuador  
30 May to 1 June 2012

STATEMENT

BY

THE REPRESENTATIVE OF GUAM

\*\*\*\*\*

STATEMENT

OF THE

NON-SELF GOVERNING TERRITORY OF GUAM

TO THE

PACIFIC REGIONAL SEMINAR ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF  
THE THIRD DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF  
COLONIALISM: CURRENT REALITIES AND PROSPECTS

IN

QUITO, ECUADOR

FROM 30 MAY TO 1 JUNE 2012

\*\*\*\*\*

PREPARED AND PRESENTED BY: LISALINDA NATIVIDAD, PHD

## Introduction

THE HONORABLE SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF NEW YORK

distinguished members of the Special Committee on the

1917

Guam Congress was established as an advisory body with its members

comprising of Chamorro leaders appointed by Naval Governor Roy Smith.

- 1931 ... Guam Congress members were elected by the people – the first general election ever held on Guam.
- 1936 ... Over 1,900 Guam residents signed a petition urging the U.S. Congress to enact citizenship legislation. F.B. Leon Guerrero and B.J. Bordallo travelled to Washington D.C. to lobby for U.S. citizenship. The two Chamorro leaders met with President Roosevelt.

- 1986 ...The Guam Commonwealth Act was written and two years later was introduced in the U.S. House and Senate.
- 1989 ...Congress held a public hearing on the Guam Commonwealth Act in Hawaii, then referred it to the Executive Branch.

- 1990 ...Negotiation talks began to get a consensus on the final draft, but bogged down because of disagreements on some major issues.
- 1997 ...The Guam Decolonization Commission was established by local law, authored by former Sen. Hope Cristobal. It is charged with researching and

conducting a plebiscite on three terminal options – Statehood, Independence and Free Association, as mandated by the U.N.

- 2000/2002 A decolonization plebiscite was scheduled in conjunction with the 2000

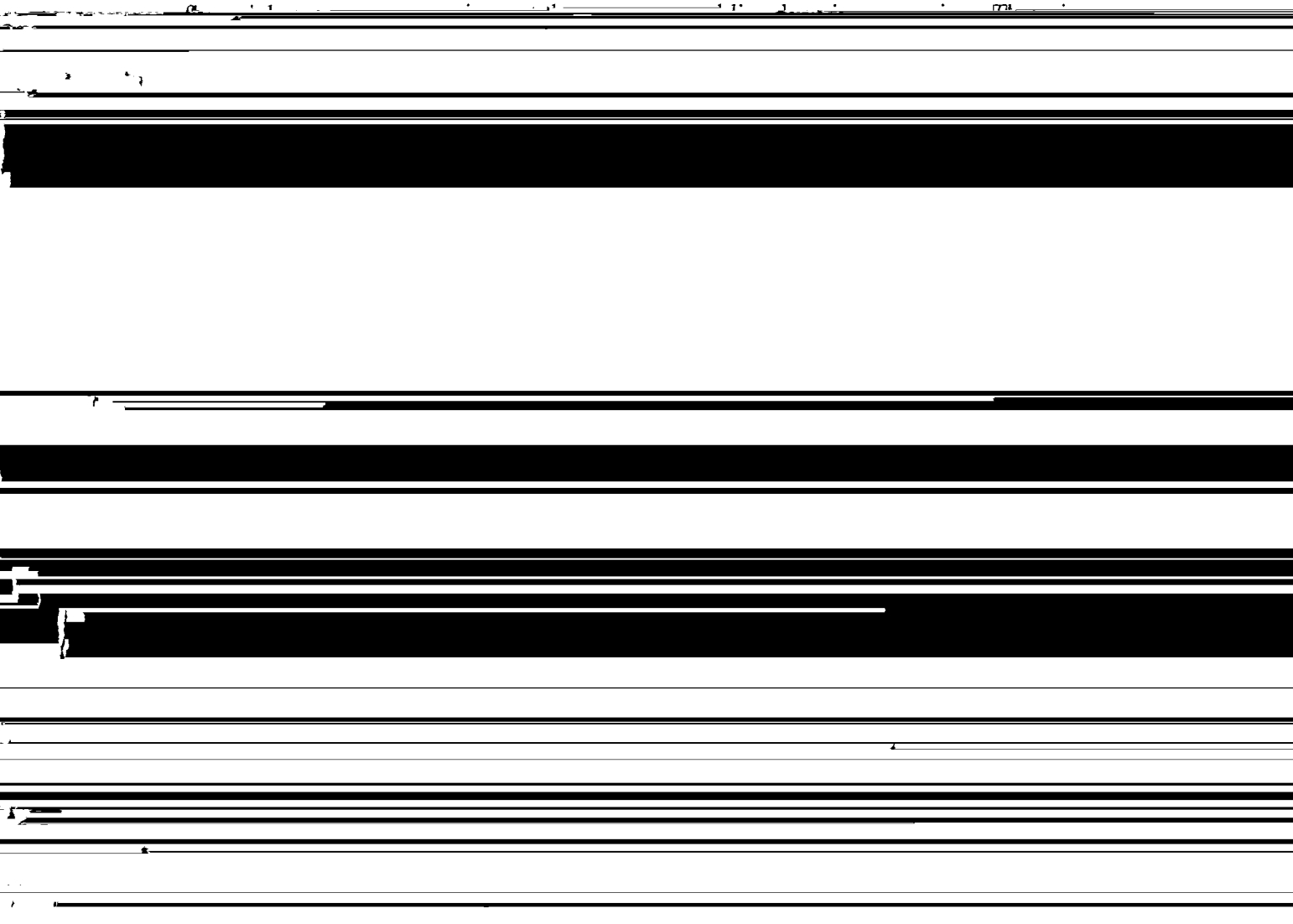
general elections. A separate registration of at least 70 percent of the qualified “inhabitant” voters was required and adequate mass public education on the three options be conducted. The Guam Election Commission has been unable to establish

consistently on a monthly basis with the goal of a resolution of Guam's political status issue.

Current agenda items of the Guam Commission on Decolonization are centered around setting a plebiscite date for the Chamorro Self-Determination vote and identifying the resources to fund a crucial educational campaign to inform the community of the political status issue. Guam Public Law no. 24-296 indicated that a plebiscite should have been held on December 12, 1999; however, the absence of a political status education campaign rendered the plebiscite premature. This was also the case in 2000 and 2002.

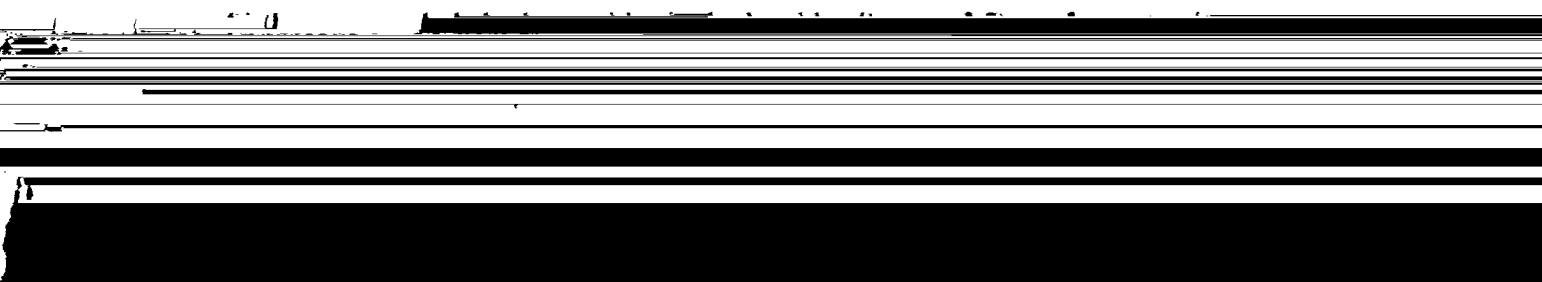
The current commission is faced with the same quandary of setting a plebiscite date without the financial resources to carryout a well-planned political status education campaign. Guam's Congressional Representative, Madeleine Bordallo, was able to usher and enact H.R. 3940, which clarified Congressional intent for Guam's administering under the United States, through the Department of the Interior, to have

of \$40 million. With these dire financial straits, Guam is not in the position to commit its



tag for such a campaign engaging all forms of mainstream media was estimated to cost approximately \$1 million.

While the Guam Commission on Decolonization is currently challenged by the lack of financial resources to fund an integrated political status educational campaign,



on November 22, 2011 in hopes of overturning the public law that defines “native inhabitants” for the vote. The lawsuit was filed in the District Court of Guam and is brought against the Territory of Guam, the Guam Election Commission, election commissioners, and the Attorney General of Guam. Davis is being represented by the

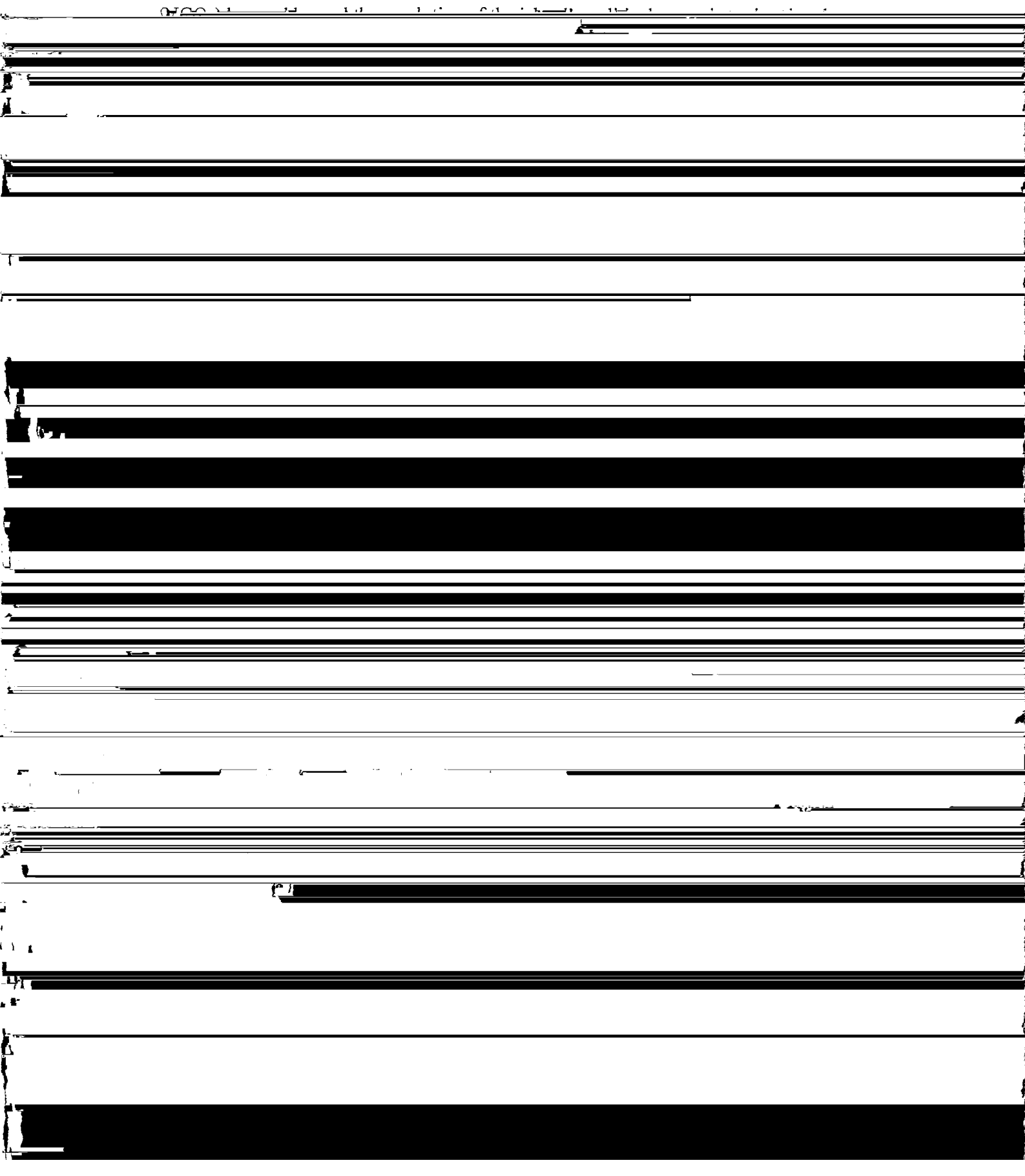
*Center for Individual Rights, an American... and... think tank...*

based in Washington D.C. Davis filed the lawsuit citing the occasion in which he attempted to register for the Decolonization Registry in 2009, however, was denied because he did not meet the legal definition of a “native inhabitant of Guam” as defined

*in Guam law. Current Guam law indicates that those who lived on Guam and were*



While much has transpired on the issue of Chamorro self-determination within the shores of Guam, the Government of Guam and local non-governing organizations



closer to the countries of Japan and the Philippines. Nonetheless, seeking out such exemptions in the past has been met with resistance and protest by labor unions and the protection of American jobs. The cumulative effects of Guam's colonization render a condition that inhibits the island and its people from living a sustainable existence.

Various social indicators underscore the poor state of the island's colonial reality: nearly 40% of the island's people receive any combination of cash assistance through TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families), food stamps (SNAP), and Medicaid programs. Further, 67% of all school children in the public school system qualify for subsidized meals. In his State of the Territory Address delivered on January 31, 2012, Governor Eddie Baza Calvo stated:

~~"It is imperative for the federal government to..."~~

immigration policy in U.S. history on Guam... then throw peanuts

Committee explores the prospects of developing innovative approaches and new dynamics, the following recommendations are offered.

**Recommendations**

In light of these concerns, the Non-Self-Governing Territory of Guam offers the following recommendations:

1. That Guam remain on the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories until its people have had the opportunity to exercise their inalienable human right to political self-determination;

2. That Guam be a site of the next Pacific Regional Seminar in 2014 so that

3. That the United Nations hold the administering power, the United States, responsible for providing funding to support a political status educational campaign, consistent with United Nations Resolution 66/89 adopted by the General Assembly which states: "The General Assembly reiterates its long-standing call for the administering

current realities and prospects relative to the decolonization of Guam. We evoke members of this committee to exercise its authority to hold administering powers of the world accountable to the principles of decolonization and true self-determination.