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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 future for decolonization in the Non Self-Governing Territories: what are the prospects?

Kingstown, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines 16 to 18 May 2017

DISCUSSION PAPER

PRESENTATION

BY

MS. JUDITH L. BOURNE

THE DETERIORATION OF CONSCIOUSNESS OF ITS PLACE IN THE WORLD - THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS IN THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM

Statement of Judith L. Bourne, Esq.

to the

Caribbean Regional Seminar of the United Nations Special Committee on Decolonization

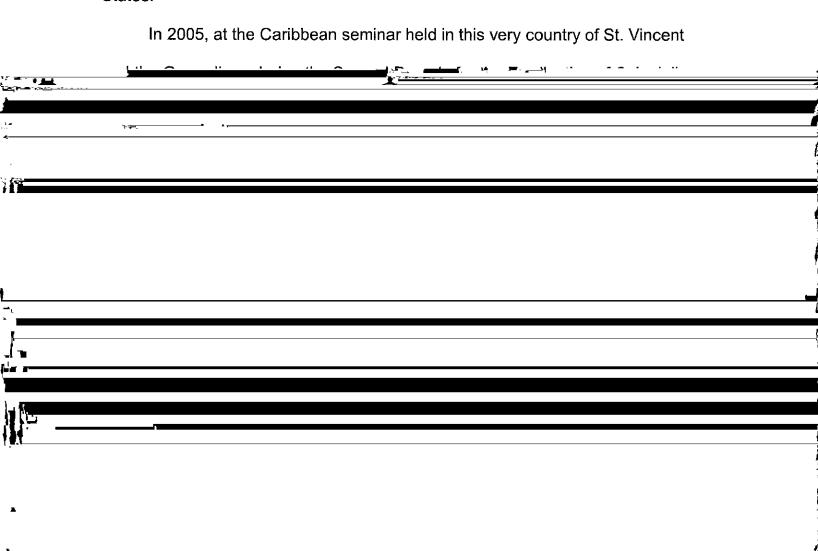
(CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY)

16 - 18 May 2017 St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Mr. Chairman, Thank you for this opportunity to present my perspective to this seminar on the situation with regard to the Non-Self-Governing Territories administered by

personnel and the enlargement of US military bases in Guam as the US relocates its forces from Okinawa has kept the Chomorro people concerned about their future in their native land, but even in that situation, outreach to the UN and to this committee in particular does not exhibit great confidence or hope.

Let me go into some detail about my home, the Virgin Islands of the United States.



status and options of the USVI amongst both the general population and the political elite has actually deteriorated and the deterioration has been sharp.

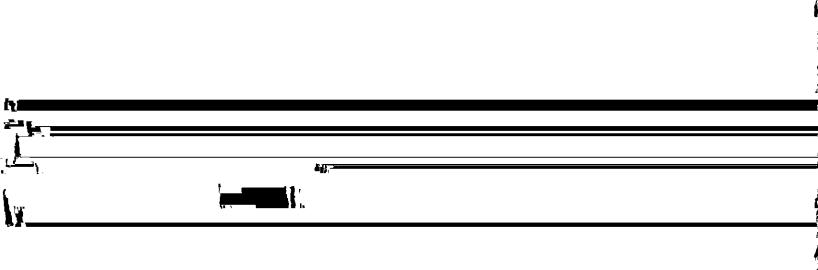
Let me begin with the so-called "issue" of the Presidential vote. As even a casual reader of the U.S. Constitution knows, the President of that country is indirectly elected by a body known as the Electoral College whose members are elected by the constituent states of the USA, plus the Capital district, known as

the quadrennial event is actually 50 simultaneous state elections and 1 district

	of the Houses of the US Congress. In order that its interests can be heard, the
	togritage starte a non-voting Delegate to the Congress, who site in the House of
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	Representatives and can speak there on behalf of the territory. That delegate is
	not a member of the Congress, but a delegate to the Congress.
	Although prior delegates were known to refer to themselves as
	Congressman or Congresswoman on occasion, the current Delegate uses this
	title almost exclusively, in the signage of her offices, on her stationary and in her
	papana nahanana mada <u>akhan mushiba akaka masun</u> ka — Tha a dhakha akhan suduh ba ba ba ba dasa. An

This despite the fact that the population had voted in a referendum in 1982 to deal with the status issue before addressing a new constitution. The US law which authorized the constitutional process required that the proposed document be approved by the federal government before being submitted to the people of the territory for adoption. That approval was not given because of protections offered to certain Virgin Islanders with ancestral ties to the territory which were not afforded to more recent immigrants.

In 2010, the delegates to the US Congress from the three NSGTs of



American Samoa would cause the destruction of the communal basis of their society by forcing them to eliminate all differences between the indigenous people and immigrant American citizens. The lawsuit was dismissed at the trial

"We can envision little that is more anomalous, under modern standards, than the forcible imposition of citizenship against the

grade or		
	the 100 th anniversary of the transfer of the territory from Denmark to the United	
	States This chould have been an ecossion for equipme reflection on aum present	
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	situation and prospects for the future. While the US government has provided	
	funds for activities throughout a 12 month period, the emphasis appears to be	
	mara ar lacking to the neet so the source of local culture and there has been re	
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