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SECOND INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM

St. George's, Grenada  
22 to 24 May, 2007

Administrator of Tokelau



Delivered by the Secretary of the Special Committee, Mr. Sergei Chazovnikov

Tokelau, its administration by New Zealand since 1926, and efforts that both Tokelau and New Zealand are taking to ensure the people of Tokelau have the best

UN Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for many years. At the Committee's Pacific Regional Seminar in Fiji last November Tokelau's experiences, including its then recently held referendum on self-determination, were a focus of discussions.

It was appropriate that it should be and I was grateful for the opportunity to be here. In just over a month we will be with you in New York and be able to participate in the meeting of the Committee. Then we will be pleased to explain recent developments relating to Tokelau. A second reason is the distance. In anyone's language it is a very long way from the Pacific to the Caribbean – more than 24 hours by air. I would like to see you but can not on this occasion.

Notwithstanding our absence, I am pleased to have this opportunity to update members of the Committee and representatives of territories covered by the work of the Committee on recent developments in Tokelau's self-determination efforts. I thank the Secretariat for being willing to bring this statement to the attention of the Seminar

Committee, including documentation for the forthcoming session next month, have set out in considerable detail the activities leading to the February 2006 Referendum and the outcome of it.

While sixty percent of voters supported a change of status to that of self-government in free association with New Zealand, the same status as that of Niue and the Cook Islands, the required two thirds majority for a change of status for Tokelau the atolls of Tokelau decided not to move to self-government?

vary. In my view two points deserve to be highlighted here. First, the voters of Tokelau gave insufficient support for a change of status in February 2006. That was their right



disagreement about the restriction of voting rights to those residing on the atolls. This  
has been encouraging in the far greater understanding of what it would mean – and equally what it would not mean. Tokelauans will continue to retain New  
Zealand citizenship and their unfettered right of access to New Zealand. Current levels  
of support for the Government would be maintained. The Government would be the removal of the seat of Administration from the  
atolls.

I have explained this phase of the preparatory process in more detail. It is an essential part of ensuring that all possible aspects of the  
future of Tokelau as a country will be taken into account. New Zealand understands and accepts that the  
"family of Tokelau" New Zealand understands and accepts that the  
Zealand are committed to ensuring that these are protected and enhanced.

colonization must come to an end. It is essential that the international community –  
administering powers, UN member states and international organisations –  
acknowledge clearly the necessity of the

I look forward to hearing the outcomes of your deliberations and to having the  
opportunity to discuss them further and in depth at next month's Committee meeting in  
New York.