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THIRD INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM

Caribbean regional seminar on the implementation of the Third International Decade

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	relations and future decolonisation prospects
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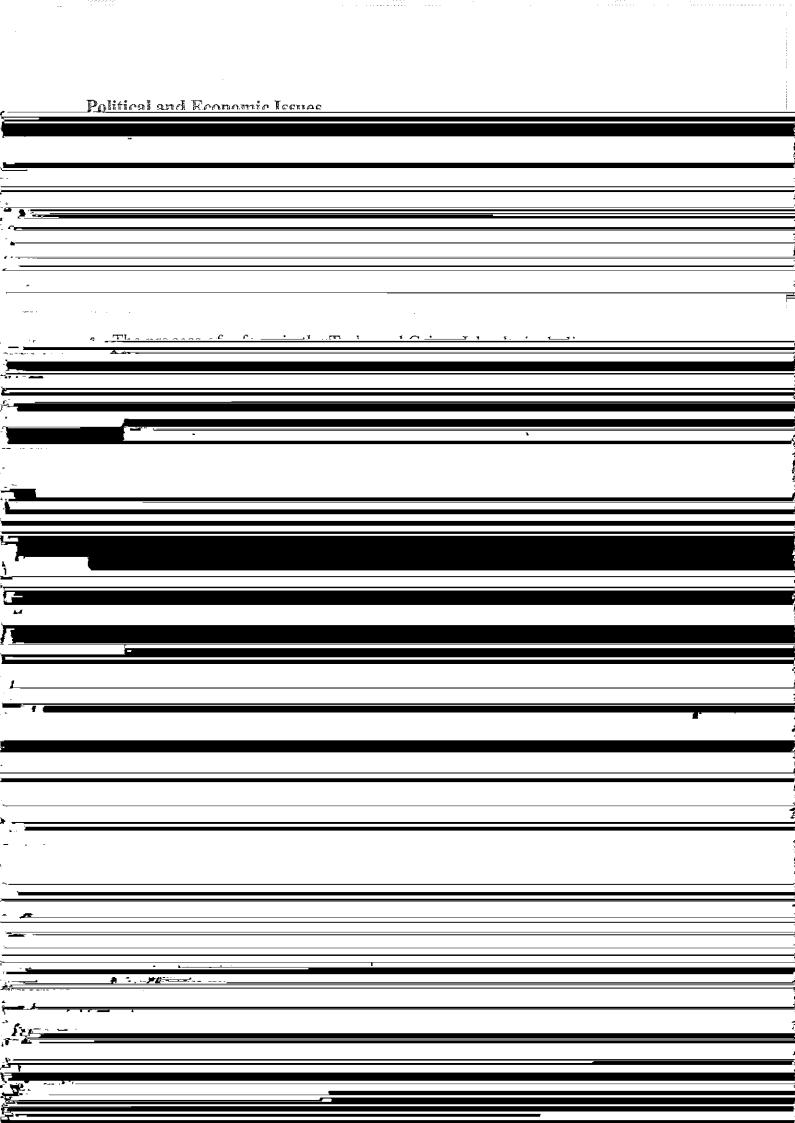
The 2	012	White	Paper
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This was published to set out the Coalition government's approach to the territories.

The UK wanted to do two things: to promote a positive overall agenda while making clear the responsibilities and high standards of governance the territories must maintain

Thus on the one hand the White Paper talks about "renewing and strengthening" the relationship; promoting a "very strong positive vision"; and referring to the LIK-Overseas Territories link as a "valued positive vision".

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Attitudes towards the present constitutional relationship

	From the UK government, the view is that the constitutional position is largely
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have been agreed for all the territories except for Anguilla.

For the territories the picture is mixed. In the BVI, the Cayman Islands, and Montserrat there is general satisfaction with the status quo.

However, in Anguilla and the TCI the rhetoric against the constitutional link is quite critical. Premier Rufus Ewing in the TCI has talked of independence, but in a rather non-committal way.

In Anguilla, Chief Minister Hubert Hughes has called for complete internal self-government, and more recently full independence. In April 2013 Hughes said he wanted a referendum by the end of the year to consider two options: "complete internal self-government or independence". Note, moderate reform was not offered as an option.

	ruture decolonisation prospects
	From the outset it can be stated that neither the UK nor the territories want a
	closer and more formal constitutional relationship that might involve direct
	representation for the territories in the UK parliament.
	Similarly, the possibility of independence appears only a distant possibility
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	of the local (Montserratian) population? Without some kind of vote or
	referendum it is difficult to gauge what the view of the population is – they
<u> </u>	might not want independence but they may wish to have greater autonomy

Final thoughts
It is clear that at the present time the routes towards decolonisation are limited.
Independence, incornoration, and free association are not favoured by either the
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One option is to de-list territories that request it, but as we have seen this is
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