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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.

In 2005, at the Caribbean seminar held in this very country of St. Vincent

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 District of Columbia. Although hyped as a nationwide "Presidential election"

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

election. While markedly different from the board, the qualifications for election

of the Houses of the US Congress. In order that its interests can be heard, the

territory elects a non-voting Delegate to the Congress, who sits in the House of

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

press releases and other public statements. The distinction is that

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, Guam and the US Virgin Islands asked the Congress to pass a

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 majority will. See, e.g., U.N. Charter arts. 1, 72 (recognizing self



[REDACTED]

the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the transfer of the territory from Denmark to the United

States. This should have been an occasion for serious reflection on our present  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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  
more on looking to the past as the source of local culture and there has been no

[REDACTED]

The very idea of self-determination is the opposite of the languor induced

political, name for that is alienation. Whichever term is preferred, the continued experience of modern colonialism encourages this defection from the human values of self definition and creativity.