

DECOLONIZATION NEWS: Governor Convenes First Decolonization Meeting in A Decade

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 24, 2011

The Governor of Guam convened the Commission on Decolonization for the first time in about a decade. Commission Chairman Governor Eddie Baza Calvo signed a letter to President Barack Obama announcing the commission's plans to seek political self-determination. This letter is attached for your reference.

"Times have changed since the last time this commission met. I suggest we set up various groups within our organization to go out into the community and identify what the needs and wants of the people are today," Governor Calvo said. "We've got to look at the social, political and economic aspects of this initiative and how it will affect us today."

On the table for discussion were issues such as funding for a delegation to represent Guam at an upcoming United Nations meeting as well as an agenda for an upcoming visit from Dr. Carlyle Corbin, an expert on decolonization.

"We don't need to look far to understand the degree of success and failure when exploring our options," Governor Calvo stated. "Whether it's free association, statehood or independence, the people of Guam really need to come together to think these issues through and ultimately decide what is going to be the best course of action."

Guam is one of 16 non self-governing territories identified by the United Nations. UN Resolution No. 1514, signed in 1960, affirms that at all non self-governing territories have the right to self-determination.

Members of the Commission on Decolonization voted to schedule regular meetings every first and third Friday of the month.

Contact Troy Torres at 475-9304 or 486-8887 for more information.

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EDDIE BAZA CALVO
Governor



RAY TENORIO
Lieutenant Governor

Office of the Governor of Guam

September 23, 2011

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States of America
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

Guam has proven its ability of self-government since electing both its executive and legislative leaders since 1970. Generations of Guamanians have proudly waved the flag of freedom. Countless men and women have served and given their lives in defense of our great nation. To this day, we remain proud patriots.

Guam is a progressive American territory in the Asia Pacific region. We are one of 16 territories identified as "non self-governing" by the United Nations, the last remaining in the western Pacific region. Self-determination has been a substantial issue raised within serious political and social conversation.

The Calvo Tenorio administration is committed to pursuing a political status that speaks to the will of the people.

Pursuant to Chapter XII, Article 73 of the UN charter and UN resolutions 1514 and 1541, I officially announce that Guam's Commission on Decolonization, an official organization recognized and endorsed by this administration, mandated to fully understand the voice and will of the people, is embarking on a quest for political destiny.

As we move forward with this most important right to self-determination, I respectfully request the Obama Administration's continued support for Guam and her people during this significant endeavor in our history.

EDDIE BAZA CALVO
Governor



RAY TENORIO
Lieutenant Governor

Office of the Governor of Guam

We hope that Guam will be afforded the same opportunities as all those who have sought to determine their own political statuses before us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Eddie Baza Calvo".

EDDIE BAZA CALVO

Cc: The Honorable Hillary Clinton, Secretary of State
The Honorable John Boehner, Speaker of the House of Representatives
The Honorable Harry Reid, United States Senate Majority Leader
His Excellency Ban Ki-moon, United Nations Secretary General
Laura Vaccari, United Nations, Decolonization Unit Chief