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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH
REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF
INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES
AND PEOPLES

PETITION FROM MR. STAN GRANT CONCERNING JAMAICA

(Circulated in accordance with the decision taken by the Sub-Committee
on Petitions at its 16th meeting on 12 July 1962)

I

c/o LCA - Liberator
244 East 46th Street
New York 17, N.Y.

Dear Excellency,

I have the honour to submit the attached memorandum for your kind attention
and urgent action.

While awaiting your early reply, I must ask you, to please accept, the
assurance of my high consideration and esteem.

Yours in the Cause of Jamaican
Independence

(Signed) Stan Grant
Freedom Fighter

The Chairman (India)

Special Committee on Situation with
regard to implementation of Declaration
on granting of independence to colonial
countries and peoples

United Nations Secretariat

United Nations, N.Y.

62-15342

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MEMORANDUM SUBMITTED TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE
ON SITUATION WITH REGARD TO IMPLEMENTATION OF
DECLARATION ON GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO
COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

ILLUSTRICUS CHAIRMAN:

DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES:

On behalf of the African-Ancestry people who constitute the majority of the population of Jamaica and others who go to make up the remaining portion of our total numbers, I must first of all express my complete joy at the very formation of your Special Committee on situation with regard to Implementation of Declaration on granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples, to whom I may address our petition with the prayer and hope that there still remain in our society today men and women of goodwill such as you all are, who have dedicated their lives to truth and in helping as far as they possibly can those of their fellowmen who are still existing under the terrible disease of colonialism and entering into the new stage of neo-colonialism.

I crave your indulgence and ask to be granted a hearing to discuss matters concerning Jamaica which is due for independence on August 6th of this year and which issues if allowed to remain will most certainly affect the tranquillity and good order of the entire Latin American area and even affect world peace for which we are all striving.

BACKGROUND: After over 300 years of colonialism, Jamaica is due for independence on August 6th, 1962. This period spent under colonialism included a time of open chattel slavery which though now officially abolished still retain certain heredity under which the majority of the populace are still subjected. The actions of our present masters - the British - in bringing us along the road to be like you - cannot be described as a clean slate, particularly when we Jamaicans think of their peculiar inconsiderations, clandestine and other obnoxious affairs which polluted the very existence of our society and people and which today if we do not take care and be on our guard, can very well reduce us to the position of parasites in our all and several dealings.

CHARGES: Racial discrimination appear to be the understood way of life of our masters and their status quo establishment. It is no exaggeration to say that

despite the fact that the African descent people constitute nearly ninety-five percent of the populace, anyone can count their small numbers employed in the executive branch of our society which we will qualify to mean - banks, commercial and other workers of the better jobs category. To put it very straight to you, it boils down to this: If you are white you are all right, if you are brown you can stick around, and if you are black your place is in the back. Repeated attempts to bring this issue to those in power have always met with the vilest suppressions.

2. Civil liberties are made a mockery of. Religious and other persecution are so commonplace that they are no longer recorded. The continued threat of throwing those who attempt to speak about reform into prison under a Government detention order for who knows how long is now a regular joke.

3. Police activities which would not be permitted in your countries take place in mine.

4. Now that we are going into independence, the repeated rumor which really frighten our people and which despite much requests the Government has not denied, is the one that the Government which will lead us into independence will soon after independence secretly sign an agreement to install on our soil foreign military, naval, and other bases with rockets, nuclear warheads, and other atomic tools of death to complete certain strategic encirclement policies in the name of hemispheric defense. This undenied intention truly frightens our peoples. It is the desire of the majority of us to live in peace with all mankind and enjoy a full, free and independent sovereignty.

5. What might appear as a joke to you is indeed death to us. To illustrate this point further, I but refer to my own person wherein I am summoned before the court on what can be described as a minor charge brought about unquestionably through political pressures. The penalty if convicted list a fine of not more than \$150 and in the event of failure to make payment, a sentence of not more than three months imprisonment. The learned judge in this case backed by a biased establishment to eager to put me behind bars literally threw the law book out of the window, found me guilty (despite reasonable explanation) and sentenced me to six months hard labour imprisonment without a fine, even taking into consideration that I had no previous conviction. These and other related happenings which sound so comical are daily happenings and far too numerous to mention at this stage.

6. Housing and unemployment plagues the majority of our people. Genocide against a section of our population can be proven if investigated.

7. Denial of passports and the right to travel is a favourite tool of the authorities.

CUTLCOK: If the authorities continue to disregard the wishes of the majority of my people it is imminent that a violent and bloody revolution will take place not long after the achievement of independence and which could spark off a conflagration in Latin America which could become so universal that in a matter of a little time the whole area would be a flaming mass that could seriously jeopardise world peace.

URGE: It is my sincere wish that your Committee in accordance with its terms of reference and if it so desire, permit me to appear before you to go further into this serious issue of the Jamaican people.

If you feel that same should be referred to the Fourth Committee, on behalf of those whom I have the honour to speak for, I agree to your wise judgement.

Respectfully,

(Signed) Stan Grant
Jamaican Freedom Fighter

II

June 23, 1962.

Sir:

In continuation of my letter and memorandum dated yesterday, I beg to explain that I am appearing in my capacity as President of the Jamaica Union of African-Ancestry Workers, Director of the African Affairs Bureau of Jamaica, Chairman of the Caribbean Afro-Asian Committee, and Representative of the National Unity Front of Political Parties and Reform Organisations in Jamaica seeking Jamaican reforms.

Please especially mention this as I am aware of certain moves to discredit the wishes of the majority of our peoples and the quality of their just representation.

Respectfully,

(Signed) STAN GRANT
FREEDOM FIGHTER.