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BELIZE

REPORT

from the

JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE

together with the proceedings of the Committee, evidences and appendices before the Joint Select Committee on "The White Paper — Proposed Terms of a Constitution for the Independent Belize".

Appointed by Order of the House of Representatives dated the 29 January 1981 and of the Senate dated 3 February 1981.

First Meeting of the Joint Select Committee
Appointed to Consider the White Paper on the
Proposed Terms of a Constitution for the
Independent Belize held in Punta Gorda on
February 16, 1981

Verbatim

Members Present

Hon. V. H. Courtenay)
Hon. C. L. B. Rogers) in the Chair
Hon. F. J. Marin
Hon. S. Musa
Hon. F. H. Hunter
Hon. G. Ramos

Hon. V. Courtenay: Good morning, gentlemen. I would wish to begin by calling to order the proceedings of the Joint Select Committee of the National Assembly of Belize.

I would wish to state first of all that our authority, the power under which we have, and that which we have by virtue of a resolution which was passed in both the House of Representatives and in the Senate and that resolution invites this Committee, appointed this Committee and authorized it to consider and to report on the White Paper which was favoured by the Government of Belize in both houses. It also empowers us to hear the views of all the people of Belize. Anybody who wants to come forward and to hear their views about the proposals which are contained in the White Paper and this is why we are in Punta Gorda today to hear as many views as are possible of the people from the Toledo District. Anybody who wishes to speak to us, we are going to ask them to come forward inside the bar because of two reasons. First of all I want to make sure that we don't miss a word of what you say and secondly, we have a little instrument there that is going to record your voice. We can't record it from all the way at the back of the room so that if you would come forward and sit on this bench in front of us and speak then we will be able to tape what you have to say, so that we have exactly what you say and we don't make any mistakes. That's the purpose of that, not to trick you, but so that we have a record of exactly what people have said and we can prove it by producing their voice. All right, having said that now, I'll ask the first person who wishes to come and make a statement to please just push open that door and come forward and sit on this bench here before me, before all of us and express yourself.

Hon. V. Courtenay: Good morning, Sir, have a seat. Your name, please?

C. Arzu: Candido Arzu

Courtenay: And you live, Mr. Arzu?

C. Arzu: In Barranco

Courtenay: Welcome. We are pleased you are here. Now what would you like to tell us about the White Paper?

Arzu: Well, I received some copies of the White Paper and instructions from the Clerk of the Assembly to write down the views or objections of anybody who so objects or who support the White Paper. Well I got that and the paper was widely distributed and up to the time I left Barranch nobody had objected so I take it that it is acceptable to the ...

Courtenay: villagers of Barrancho. In Barrancho what office do you hold?

Arzu: I am Chairman of the Village Council.

Courtenay: Thank you. So then, as Chairman of the Village Council and having distributed the White Paper, it is your opinion, having heard from the people that the village as a whole supports the terms and conditions that are contained. Is there anything else that you wish to say? Well, thank you very much for coming so far to let us know. We are very, very pleased with what you had to say.

Arzu: Thank you.

Courtenay: Next. Anybody else? Good morning, Sir. Your name, please?

J. Grinage: John Grinage.

Courtenay: John Grinage, and Mr. Grinage, where do you live?

Grinage: Punta Gorda Town

Courtenay: And you appear on behalf of any organization, or as a citizen.

Grinage: As a citizen.

Courtenay: As a Citizen. Now, tell us what you have come to talk to us about.

Grinage: I support the Bill in an uncertain manner and freeheartedly if I could understand more about the right of the people in this sense with the laws and different matters because within this White Paper, I don't see where the people have no partaking with the law. Every law I see here comes from the National Assembly. I don't see no part where the people have a right to object or agree to the law. So what I would like to say, I say that this is a sacred thing and it shouldn't be tampered with only the National Assembly. I believe that amendment should be made that certain laws that are big enough shouldn't be handled by Government. I feel that it should go to the people at a referendum to subject it, to present it to the House and I don't see where the people have no power and no right to decide in this. Secondly, I notice that the Governor-General will be appointed by the Prime Minister. Now to me, the way I see it, I believe that you wouldn't have no democracy because then if the Prime Minister is there, he could move, if he sign a law, that going direct through because then that's illegal. The Governor-General under the rule a fifth wheel to the coach because a fifth wheel to the coach is very important.

Hon. F. Hunter: A what, Sir?

Courtenay: A fifth wheel to the coach. He feels that the Governor-General will be under a fifth wheel to the coach.

Grinage: So I don't know what amendment or how you do it. The Governor-General should have a little more power concerning - there are certain law that should be put that suppose it comes that the country comes to a chaos right, the Governor-General have the right to take over until this thing is settled, you see? With the advice of nobody, then, I believe, we're going someplace.

Courtenay: Now those are the two points you want to make? and you finish? Wait, hold on, please don't run so quick. I want to understand you very clearly, Mr. Grinage. I want to be sure that we understand exactly what you are saying.

Now I understand you saying that this is a sacred document. In other words, the Constitution is a sacred law. Is that what you are saying?

Grinage: Correct.

Courtenay: Good, and that it is your feeling that before anybody tamper with it, that the people should approve. Is that what you are saying?

Grinage: Exactly.

Courtenay: And you are saying that the people should approve it by referendum. That is what you are proposing. Before that thing is changed you are saying that, apart from the National Assembly, the people must also approve it in a referendum. That's your proposal?

Grinage: Yes. And in that case, you see, the Government would never go wrong.

Courtenay: All right, I'm not quarrelling with you, you know, I just want to make sure me and you understand one another.

Hon. S. Musa: Now before you leave, I want to ask you? A referendum to determine what, a referendum for what.

Grinage: Well, when the House makes the law, whatever law they propose. I don't know what that law will be.

Musa: You are saying that you feel that in our new Constitution there should be a clause in there that any law the House makes the people must approve.

Grinage: Not anyone, because you have some small little petty ones, you know.

Musa: That's what I want to understand. What kind of law are you talking about?

Grinage: Like something that would affect like real power that could hold down the people. You understand what I mean?

Musa: No, I don't.

Grinage: Like suppose you want to pass a law that a man is cut there, right, and a police hail him, he must stop and do what the police say. You know what I mean, without asking the police any questions. That's to show you what I mean. That the Government shouldn't get no right to protect themselves on their own behalf.

Musa: The Government shouldn't have any right to protect themselves.

Grinage: Their own personal selves without the will of the people.

Musa: You notice in the White Paper it provides for regular elections and all that every five years and the people have a right to change the Government. You know this.

Grinage: Yes, you have a right, but you see again that could change in the House. Everything in here can change in the House. It's right there.

Courtenay: Let me see if I am understanding. I will ask you a question and if you don't agree with me say so, alright? In other words, what I am understanding is to say that any law that affect the rights of the people, that is the law that you want to go to referendum. They are taking away your right.

Grinage: Exactly. And what I'm trying to say too, that if anything going to change here, it shouldn't be changed just by the House there. It should come back to the people.

Courtenay: We got that point. Anybody else on the question of referendum? Alright, we will pass on to the power of the Governor-General. That was the other one. Let me correct you about one thing. The Governor-General is not going to be appointed by the Premier, at least that's not in the proposal. If you think so then you should say so. Let me read it for you. This is point 16, so you could follow me - "There shall be a Governor-General of Belize who shall be a citizen of Belize," that is the first thing, he must be a citizen "appointed after consultation with the Premier by the Queen as her representative", so it's an appointment by the Queen of a person as her representative, after she has discussed the matter with the Premier, the Prime Minister.

Grinage: Exactly. That's a tricky thing.

Courtenay: You think that is tricky. And you don't like that.

Grinage: No, I don't like that and you know why?

Courtenay: You would have preferred the Queen to do that by herself. Is that what you are saying? Let us understand you, how you feel it should be appointed.

Grinage: I believe so.

Courtenay: By the Queen herself. Alright.

Grinage: But again, I don't want to call it pure British, but I believe since we want protection from the Queen, she has to have some kind of power too. You see because this thing come out tricky, by appointment, like she's appointing a J.P. You notice that it says by advice, it doesn't say the Queen appoint, she will advise.

Courtenay: Well, this one is only after discussion, not by advice. Just take your time, listen carefully. This one isn't even by advice, you know. It's after discussion. I changed the word consultation to discussion so that you Anyway

Grinage: You hear, after discussion, who will they discuss with, not the people.

Courtenay: The Prime Minister.

Grinage: Alright.

Courtenay: And you don't like that?

Grinage: No.

Courtenay: The Queen by herself?

Grinage: Yes.

Courtenay: Alright. Well we understand you. And then finally, I would also like to point out to you, just to correct something that you said, that also that same Point 16 says that the Governor-General holds office during the Queen's pleasure, right, Now it's the pleasure of the Queen when he must go. You notice that. In other words, the Prime Minister ...

Grinage: I respect that, but again that where I come to the first question, the House could change the rule. We come right back to that.

Courtenay: We understand you on that. I think I have your point. We'll see if everybody understands.

Hon. C. L. B. Rogers: Well, I won't call it pure British, but I want to get an understanding, that's all I want. You feel that the Queen should do this naming of the Governor-General herself irrespective of who the Governor-General turns out to be, but she should select the Governor-General. And do you have any example you could show us that a British colony that proceeded to independence that the Queen name the Governor-General. Do you have any example you could show us. We follow your points so now we want to support it with an example.

Grinage: I'm not quite sure how it work in Jamaica. I'm not quite sure.

Courtenay: I could tell you. I read it. Appointed by the Queen, but on the advice of the Prime Minister, and there it isn't even after consultation, on the advice ...

Grinage: But then you see, it looks tricky because when Jamaica went into independence, it went into independence under a different situation from us and I feel like our independence will be a funny one from many parts of the world. Why? Because what is a hundred and fifty thousand people, not even sufficient to fit in the Empire State Building and then we are between two big powerful nations and nobody wants to claim us. Anything can happen anytime. Paper can change, laws can change and we have to change to suit time. We are just an emerging nation coming up.

Courtenay: We are twice the size of Jamaica, right.

Grinage: In land, but not in population. We have land to waste, man.

Courtenay: Alright, Mr. Grinage, is there any other point you would like to raise with us. We want to thank you for coming forward and for letting us have the benefit of your views.

Thank you very much. Is there anybody else who would wish to come forward.

Your name, please.

Bardalez: Timothy Bardalez.

Courtenay: Timothy Bardalez. Now, Mr. Bardalez, I am going to give you a little trouble. I am going to ask you to speak up a little louder for me, so that everybody at this table can hear you and so the machine

can get your voice.

Now, Mr. Bardalez, where do you come from, What's your address?

Bardalez: I come from Forest Home.

Courtenay: And do you represent any Organization or you come as a citizen?

Bardalez: I came forward as a citizen.

Courtenay: And now tell us what you would like to tell us about the White Paper.

Bardalez: Well to begin with, I have read the White Paper several times. I have tried to understand it to the best of my ability. I jot down a few things that I would like to make clear since I realize that this is a sacred document and there are times when we discuss with other people and we understand it clearly to be able to explain, so I would rather say what I think first and then maybe if I want to add something in or if I want to ask something, if I'm not in the logical manner, I would like to ask you not to hesitate to correct me. I think that the Constitution should be a shield or a guide by which we will govern ourselves as free people, therefore it's of vital importance that we should question to learn and understand which will enable us to know how to use it and also to accept and explain it to others, also there are those who won't want to accept it; for that reason I looked at the Constitution and I said to my mind the Constitution would be enlisted with delegated power. I asked myself whereabouts implied power, I mean those power that will give the national Government flexibility to expand delegated power of conditions that will arise in the country. Now this Government come about those implied power, well I read it through and saw amendment as stated on page 17 - 58 (a) and (b). I said if so, I think 58 (b) would need a bit of amendment and you so care I could give an example.

Courtenay: Please, please give an example.

Bardalez: I realize that the delegated power is the power in the Constitution and there are times when things would arise and you have to imply other powers to help this thing, let's say for instance we care for independence and Government pass a law where specifically the rural people, since I come from the rural areas, our Constitution would allow us to keep our shotguns as the present Government allow

us to do and finally we begin to have uprising. Now here on page 17 it says here as far as I understand, if I'm not clearly understood I want you to correct me, it says here that part (b) "in regard to the provisions relating to Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, the House of Representatives and the Judiciary, no amendment shall be made to the Constitution unless ninety days have elapsed between the presentation of a Bill and its second reading in the House of Representatives and the Bill is approved in the House of Representatives by a final vote of no less than three-quarters, so let's say we have an uprising and we have to wait til ninety days before extra power could be employed to say let's collect all these arms before we have more trouble, you know. So I want to know where these employed powers will come from. That is my question.

Courtenay: That is your problem. Is there anything else you wanted to say, because we will help you with that, we will show you what we have in that, is there any other problem you have?

Bardalez: Yes, on page 13 and 14 No. 41 it says that the House of Representative could reach a number of members up to twenty-nine, but then I want to know what about the House of Senate? Will that number increase also? Well this is the one I mentioned a while ago. Will the Constitution infringe the certain right of rural citizens to keep their shotgun for personal use as this present law allow us to do because we in the rural area need our gun to go into the bush. You know with a change of Government, I heard some people talk that in Guatemala they can't have gun and suppose you go into the bush and you meet a snake, what will you do? Grab it by the neck? You know, I want to find that out. Now I don't know if I am in the right manner, but I want to find out these things, you know. You can correct me if I am out of order. You know I want to ask, I notice here in the Constitution, I am wondering, will one be able to give idea of how the Social Security and Welfare Scheme within the Constitution would cater for the unemployed people at their already old age. You know, I read quite a number of books and attend some meetings some time and I notice that if we are going into independence then we have to firm and steadfast and there are time when we are at meetings we have a proposed National Anthem which we should respect and I ask myself again let's say something about that and I look at the flag and I say what about ours? How will it be made, each colour and design will be symbolizing anything pertaining to our country and then I say again our national flag can stimulate joy, courage, and sacrifice for betterment. I said therefore people should know how to honour the national flag by giving allegiance or treating it with respect.

I think that's the thing that was worrying you, right? There might come a time when we may have to make rules and say take away shot-guns from people if that happens it would be page 7 that would apply, right? So there is a recommendation there for dealing with emergency.

Then when we turn to the size of the Senate and the size of the House of Representatives, you are perfectly right. The proposals in the White Paper is that the House should grow. The representation of the people should grow. There are no proposal that the Senate should grow that it should remain the same size. That is the proposal in the White Paper and we would like to know what you think about that. You think the Senate should grow along with the House of Representatives in proportion.

Bardalez: Yes.

Courtenay: In proportion, as one grow the other one should grow, right - a balance? Well, we are going to take that point because I thought that was what you meant.

Then you came to Social Security and Welfare which was contained in what we called here, we used a big word for it 'preamble'. But preamble doesn't mean anything surprising. All it means is introduction, you know, like if you are going to make a speech you make an introduction. You say good morning like I say good morning to you right? So that is the way it is. The proposals here start with a good morning statement and that good morning statement would say something about social security and welfare but we would not include any provisions here for Social Security and Welfare because we can't take all the laws and put them in the Constitution and you will appreciate that Social Security and Welfare needs to change according to the situation so that the idea, our idea, that is, the idea of government, and I am going to say it and if you don't like it you tell me if that this in the introduction, this call for social security and welfare. But the Government of the day, whoever it is in power, must provide a scheme for social security and welfare. I think you know that the existing government of which we are a part is already starting a Social Security Scheme and it is probably, probably going to begin in our country within another two months, within another 60 days. We are going to have our own Social Security and Welfare. Now there is no point for us to go into the benefits of that scheme. That is not the purpose of this exercise but

that scheme has its benefits. As a country grows and as the population grows those benefits will change and will become more or less as the situation warrants. But what we would say in the introduction is that we don't want a country that don't look after its old people. That is what we are saying. So that who is in power must look after the welfare of the people. That is the idea. That is the idea of the White Paper and I want you to tell me now whether you accept that.

Bardalez: Yes, that is good.

Courtenay: Alright, fine.

From here we go on to the National Anthem, flag, shield, motto, National bird, national tree; all of them very good suggestions. Infact, that is one of the biggest criticism that one hears on the streets, that this thing left our our national flag. I note also you said that not only do we want these things but that we want machinery to make people respect them. Let me get it clear. Do you believe that this constitution should set out our flag and anthem and so on. Is that what you are telling us?

Bardalez: I expect that if I don't see them in the real works of the Constitution.....

Courtenay: You would expect that it would be changed so that it would be included in there? Then what about allegiance? That was the last thing that you said and you said that this does not provide for allegiance. Well, now I want to draw your attention to something because it is a serious thing. If you don't agree with this I want you to say so. Look at page 8 and I want you to look particularly at paragraph 14 because what it says is this 'the proposals here in the White Paper is this that if you swear allegiance to another country you lose your citizenship of Belize even though you are born here. That is a serious thing you know. In other words if your allegiance does not remain allegiance to Belize you can lose your citizenship if you swear allegiance to another flag. That is the proposal of 14. Everybody that wants to retain his citizenship must retain his allegiance to Belize or maybe you would like it spelt out a little clearer?

Bardalez: Yes. I think so.

Courtenay: You think so?

Bardalez: Yes a little clearer.

Musa: I think that Mr. Bardalez is making a point that under 14 we only provide that you lose it and you require citizenship and not as citizenship. That if you become a Guatemalan then you can't remain Belizean. What you are saying is beyond that. That if you swear allegiance.....

Bardalez: What I am saying is that like in order countries they know the waying of their flags and the use of it. Like if you are before the flag you should salute it, men should take off their hats. I see that good. I find out that we as citizens of Belize are yet not practising these things. Among that, when we have alien people with us if we don't begin to practice them the other people won't respect them.

Rogers: Mr. Bardalez, if I may just clarify the proposal that you are really putting to the Committee. The words of the allegiance should be spelt out "I pledge allegiance to my country" or something like that. That is what you are proposing is it not?

Bardalez: That is a part of it but I would like to say that we as citizens going into independence that we should begin to do these things so that people can learn it.

Rogers: You want it included then? The proposal then is that you want it included in the constitution, the mechanics of what people should do and how the respect should be shown.

Bardalez: It is time for us to begin to do it.

Rogers: Thank you.

I think we got your point Mr. Bardalez. Is there anything else that you wanted to mention.

Bardalez: Yes one more thing.

Courtenay: One more thing. Alright.

Bardalez: I wanted to find out when the constitution is really written in bold type. The people would like to have it in bold type and then underneath you know in light type you write a little bit of explanation so whoever read it can get a little bit of explanation so that they can understand it.

Courtenay: Good, that is a very good idea. That's a good suggestion.

Musa: As marginal notes.

Courtenay: We will take note of that, that's a very good suggestion. Thank you very much.

We thank you for coming Mr. Bardalez and we have certainly made notes of everything that you have said.

Musa: You are thinking as a teacher.

Bardalez: I am a teacher.

Courtenay: Is there anybody else who would wish to come before the Committee?

C. Wagner: Gentlemen of this Committee, I want to begin to practice my human rights and my individual freedom by standing at a little distance away from you. I hope you have no objection to my standing here.

Courtenay: I don't know how the mechanics stand. We can get that tape recorder close enough?

Rogers: We want your voice recorded.

Wagner: You will get my voice..

Courtenay: Alright. The Honourable Charles Wagner, Representative for the Toledo South?

Wagner: I think so.

Courtenay: Of Punta Gorda, right?

Wagner: Well, first of all Mr. Chairman, I delayed from where I was supposed to start by noting something in the out set of the White Paper which is under the preamble. I note with curiosity your definition of the word preamble as being good morning to somebody. I think that there are a number of people who say good morning and don't really mean good morning. Hence the good morning is not sincere. The definition of preamble to an ordinary presentation of your sincere good morning which does not necessarily have to be sincere makes me wonder whether we should take the preamble as that simple because in the preamble it says that affirms that the Nation of Belize shall be founded upon

principles which acknowledge the supremacy of God, faith in human rights and fundamental freedoms etc. etc. Now, this particular part means tremendously lapse to me and to thousand of Belizeans. I would like you to clarify for me if the preamble is as that simple as a good morning.

Courtenay: Honourable, let me be very clear that while we are prepared to try and help people to understand the constitution the question should be the other way around. I am sure that you are aware of that. Now I would ever, ever simplify. I would begin saying that it is an introduction. I went on further to say well you start out with an introduction as in the case of, as I indicated to the gentleman, I said good morning which was sincere. Certainly I welcomed his coming before this committee. I am very sincere in that and the preamble in this case which is a preamble to a law is as you are aware in the substance of the law, but it attempts to set out the guiding principles upon which the sections I interpreted. Now, that is highly technical for the layman but I am sure you understand all about it that the preamble is used as a guideline and as an aid in interpreting the sections. This Constitution is going to be interpreted by the Supreme Court of Belize or at least that is the proposal. The proposal, is that it should be so interpreted and if there is any doubt as to what a particular provision means then they will turn to the preamble and interpret it in the spirit of the preamble. Now that is a lot of technical staff and I would not have proposed to put that to an ordinary citizen that way but I am sure that you will understand it.

Wagner: Thank you very much for that explanation because I know that it will help others who want to hear that reaffirmation of its sincerity.

Now, gentlemen I noted that the Chairman sort of excluded me from the layman group but I wanted to assure you that I am acting in the capacity of a layman because I have had absolutely no legal training and this is a document written obviously by legal trainers. I have gone through the White Paper extensively and there is still something in it that is not so clear to me and so I welcome this opportunity to be here this morning discussing the White Paper with you eminent men. This is a very serious document before us, the White Paper which is the proposed Constitution for the Independent Belize and I look forward to dealing with it at some future date.

Now I have written down on a piece of paper that I will give to you for your convenience but I wrote this down.

My esteemed colleague, Mr. C. J. Avilez and myself acting on behalf of the United Democratic Party Toledo South Division are very grateful for this opportunity to express the views of our members and supporters on this proposed terms of a Constitution for the Independent Belize. Although we do not support Belize's Independence without first settling the Guatemalan claim to our country and without an assured defence by land, sea and air, we do support Belize's Independence as soon as the dispute is settled; in which case a Constitution indeed would be necessary. With this understanding and with due respect to democracy, we now submit our suggestions for a true democratic constitution for an Independent Belize.

We must however mention and emphasize that these are views and suggestions of ordinary and humble lay people who have no opportunity in legal training and have absolutely no degree in political science. It is a pity that a formal study of this proposed Constitution, led by an experienced statesman, was not first organized, country wide, before its presentation to the public. We hope therefore that you will bear with us, as the suggestions are presented.

Firstly we would like to see a Constitution where the powers are truly separated, namely, Executive which is the Cabinet, the Legislature and the Judiciary. As it is at present, the Cabinet and the Legislature are, as it were, merged into one; Cabinet members being in the majority in the National Assembly. In this proposed Constitution, it appears that the Judiciary will follow suit from the fact that the Chief Justice shall be appointed on the advice of the Prime Minister. Now, here I would like to mention that the Chief Justice appointed by the Governor-General on the advice of the Prime Minister I firmly believe is not sufficient so you have to say that the Judiciary is separated totally from the executive. The Prime Minister is the head of the Executive branch of Government and if his adviser is necessary for the appointment of the Chief Justice then it puts the Chief Justice as an appointee of a political person. Now, I would have rather like to see the Chief Justice appointed by the Governor after consultation with the Prime Minister with the Opposition Leader and with the Advisory Council.

We now turn to the White Paper and specifically to the section we would like some amendments. The suggestions are, as I said, in layman language and are subject to change into legal terms.

We start with Section 4(i): This section should include "the rights of citizens to operate private radio stations and television

stations subject only to regulations for the purpose of orderly operations. Citizens should also be entitled to express and hear diverse and opposing views in the news papers, radio or television.

Section 4(n): We feel that this section should make room for citizens whose lands are acquired to have access to the court to challenge the public purpose for which the land is being acquired.

Section 14: We feel that Belizean citizens should lose his citizenship only by renunciation.

Section 16: We feel that the appointment of the Governor-General should be after consultation with both the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition or the Advisory Council.

Section 33: Under the Advisory Council, we suggest that the membership of this Body be appointed from citizens of the following categories:

- (a) Former Ministers of Government, Leader of the Opposition, Speaker of the House of Representatives and President of the Senate;
- (b) Belizean citizens who formerly held the office of Chief Justice; Judge of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal and Attorney-at-Law with status of Senior Council;
- (c) Ten other persons not below the age of thirty.
Six to be nominated by the Prime Minister and four by the Leader of the Opposition.

Section 40: We feel that this should be deleted

Section 41: We suggest that the division of the constituencies be made before Independence and the membership in the House of Assembly be determined by that division prior to Independence Day and that no more than half less two of the membership in the National Assembly may belong to the Cabinet at any one time.

Section 43: We suggest that qualification for membership of the National Assembly should include ability to speak, and unless incapacitated by blindness, write and read the English Language.

Section 58: For the amendment of the Constitution, we recommend that it should be by not less than three-fourths of the membership in the National Assembly, followed by a referendum.

Section 75: We suggest that the appointment of the Chief Justice be made after consultation with the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition. Again, this is a slight competition but we want all the emphasis on this - on the Advisory Council.

Section 86: Suggestion is here made that the appointment of the Public Service Commission be made on the advice of the Advisory Council.

We are raising no objection to the other sections of the draft Constitution at present although they are still under study. We confess that the Home Work was a bit too tight for us; but in the best interest of our country and our constituency we had no alternative but to do our best, the result of which we are happy to present for your kind consideration and of course recommendation to those responsible for the final preparation. Respectfully submitted. Signed Charles Wagner M.K.R. Toledo South Electoral Division and signed Mr. C.J. Avilez, Secretary Representatives of Toledo Branch of the United Democratic Party and the Constituency. Like I say I have a few other points I would like to discuss with the Committee.

Courtenay: All right we are ready for you.

Wagner: Firstly I would like a little clarification on this Section 39 under the House of Representatives Page 13 and the last statement said that if the person elected as Speaker is not a member of the House then by virtue of holding the office of Speaker he shall be a member of the House. That I presume will be without a vote.

Courtenay: Yes, the proposal is identical to what we have now.

Wagner: I also note that the proposed constitution have said absolutely nothing about the districts of Belize neither the fact that some mention would have been made about the districts, especially where autonomy is concerned. We are assuming that the country is ready for independence so we also know that all the present system that all the districts are governed socially by colonial means. And we have facts that everything is done from Belmopan all the decisions are made for the districts from Belmopan. How much you collect and taxes and all that, you can do nothing without consulting the Minister of Local Government I would have thought that the autonomy of the districts would be taken so that it reflects that Belize is truly ready for independence. I don't have it in words but I will make every effort to get the exact wording, what I would like to use, that may come up in the later stage. Now page 4 (c) on the fifth line, it means all persons are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to the equal protection of the law. Every person charged with a criminal offence shall be deemed innocent, then it said, shall be afforded an early and fair trial in public by an independent and impartial court sector. Now after the word innocent I would have liked to see, entitled to bail and continue, shall be afforded an early trial.

Courtenay: Every person shall be entitled to bail including those people charged with murder.

Wagner: Not necessarily so. Like I say in my layman language sensing my observations of its omissions but to make it more detailed I more or less say you could help me with that and my other friends there who is a legal man.

Courtenay: On bail I refer to paragraph (b) which begins on page 3. Everyone has a right to liberty, except under the process of law. In other words you can only be incarcerated by due process of law.

Wagner: More or less as it is today.

Courtenay: You are free unless the law finds you guilty.

Wagner: Another observation I would like to make is that it says shall be afforded an early and fair trial. Now, gentlemen, with due respect to you, early here, I hope will mean early after the Constitution is adopted and put into practice because if you know we are supposed to be entitled to an early trial to date. There are people who commit an offence, this year January and are tried next year January, and this is totally not human rights and things of that nature.

Courtenay: We are straying on to implementation, like I say I need your indulgence. It's an important document, this is the foundation of the country and it is the ultimate law

Wagner: But you agree that the words should be left in.

Courtenay: Oh yes,
Page 19 Article 69

Wagner: It says here that there shall be a session of meetings of the House at least once in every year so that a period of six months shall not intervene between the last sitting of the National Assembly.

Courtenay: In one session and the sitting in the next session.

Wagner: Now I would have liked changed the word 'year' and substituted with 'quarter-year'.

Courtenay: Proposal is that the word 'year' be substituted for the word 'quarter year'. That ^{there} should be a session every quarter year. Alright.

Wagner: I know that there is no submission for an ombudsman in the constitution and we would like to recommend the introduction of an ombudsman. My last suggestion is that Senators should not be appointed but that they should be elected.

Courtenay: By constituency?

Wagner: That they should be elected probably by constituency to give the country, the districts representation in both houses. That is not the main reason for my requesting that Senators be elected however, that's the point but looking at the Senate as it is today appointed and designated upper house. Number one it doesn't seem to me to be a upper house.

Hunter: It's a lower house.

Wagner: Number two Senators as is today appointed cannot turn back the law as is pointed out in the constitution, especially money laws can be objected by the Senate and still be ratified by the Governor-General and made law, but Senators today that are appointed are mostly done, the way I see it, as favours to people who are faithful to the winning party.

Avilez: It's an appointment which means that if the Senators do not really act in agreement with the party that appointed them then that Senator is to be dismissed subject to being dismissed by that same person who appointed, so it means that the man is there to meet the purpose of supporting the Government only, and not using their free will as is done in other cases as like for instance in England. England is a more sophisticated system and they have the House of Lords there but then the House of Lords any time gives a lot of trouble to the House of Commons, but, so I would like to follow the system of the House of Lords and I would like to see our Senators elected here. The House of Lords is giving a privilege to a special set of persons by birth. This is why I say no to that system, but if we should have a senate, I think it should be elected to make them responsible to the people and not to the persons who appoint them.

Hunter: You said you want a Senate or you don't want a Senate?

Wagner: No I agree with a bi-cameral House but that they be elected instead; that they run for election, not in the favour of an election and lose their appointment as a Senator; I mean, I am not saying this to ... I'm not throwing any stone; please hear me out I'm just using an example.

Avilez: I understand entirely, I don't think that is a fault that we can point anything at any body.

Wagner: That is well true, I do agree with that, but that is what I mean. Now that's my final suggestion.

Courtenay: Now I just wonder whether I - that is a joint presentation by Mr. Avilez and yourself and I am for a moment suggesting that you are not representing Mr. Avilez fairly, but if Mr. Avilez is here and would wish to add anything of that sort, he is completely free to do so.

Avilez: I simple want to say that I have nothing to add to it but to say that I speak on behalf of the people we are representing.

Courtenay: Thank you very very much Mr. Avilez and I would like to make an observation here. First of all I wish to express the Committee's gratitude to both Mr. Wagner and yourself, you have clearly taken a lot of time in preparing your presentation and this is the hope of the Committee that people will have spent their time and that they will submit their presentation. We are grateful as well that you have prepared your presentation in writing or at least the bulk of your presentation is in writing and we understand why the rest of it is not in writing, and I would like to assure you both that this Committee will not close its proceedings for some time yet and if there are other matters which you wish to submit to this Committee, you may send anything in addition in writing. However, there is one point I must make and I must make it because I want you to know that we will have to strike from the record, the observations made about Independence. That's not our business, right, we are given strict powers and it is limited to this White Paper; we can't go beyond that so that's what I want you both to understand, that's outside our terms of reference and therefore we will have to strike that off the records but apart from that this Committee expresses its gratitude for the time and trouble that you have taken and we thank you very much for your presentation both orally and particularly in writing, because that is helpful, very helpful. Anything else, please, anything else you want to say; either send us a note or appear at any other meeting. Thank you.

Courtenay: Mr. Busa would want to clarify one matter.

Busa: This recommendation, Honourable, that a citizen of Belize should not lose its citizenship by renunciation, that's your proposal, right?

Avilez: Yes, but about pledging allegiance to another country, a second country.

Rogers: One question. You propose that there should be an elected Council and I want to see how this will work in what is essentially a monarchical system proposed in the White Paper. If you have one party ruling the House of Representatives and another party ruling the House of the Senate, would we not require that both Houses the same representation under your proposal.

How do we get around the point of passing a law in such a situation where we don't have a President. This is a different situation, this is in fact ending a monarchical system. You made some suggestions of changing it into a republic, but made a suggestion, we only work under a republican system. Maybe you can enlighten this Committee.

Wagner: I am assuming that we want the best system for Belize. In that case we are ready to be independent and so I think we are not necessarily to confine ourselves to all the practices of the monarchical system but that we should in cases where practicable, borrow something from this, something from that and put them together I know of two systems, republican, where you have an elected House, you have a Bi-cameral system both Houses are elected then you have a president. In this system we will have a Prime Minister who will be a member of the House of Representatives.

Rogers: In order to understand your proposal clearly.

The point is to me very deep. The constitution will give the Prime Minister a veto as practiced - the United Kingdom, that's what we are going to get, are you proposing a veto for the Prime Minister?

Wagner: That is the set up and if there is an elected Senate because a Prime Minister without a veto with a system as you say, one party ruling one part of the House and another party ruling the other will present confusion. But in my view it will provide more check and balance there is not that supreme power in one party that appoints these Senators so that the way to break the deadlock you are proposing a veto by the Prime Minister providing they agree to that because it's on the basis of that we ask the question. Then I think you have given us a of the constitution in writing.

Wagner: Thank you.

Courtenay: Your name please.

Arzu: William Arzu, Chairman of the Men's Group.

Courtenay: That's Punta Gorda right? Alright Mr. Arzu, tell us what you have for us.

Arzu: Page 22 Section 86. Except for ex-officio members, the Chairman and the members of the Public Service Commission shall be appointed by the Governor-General on the advice of the Prime Minister. Before tendering his advice the Prime Minister shall consult with the Leader of the Opposition. Well, on that point I don't think that the Leader of the Opposition should be consulted on that. Not the way this one is behaving so I approve that, and the other point here I want to know if the Governor-General will be elected or some terms of five year term that's what I would like to know.

Courtenay: Well the proposal here Sir, in the White Paper is that he should not be would not be elected that he is the Queen's representative; that he has as much power in our country as the Queen has namely that the Queen must act on the advice of her Ministers so that similarly in Belize the Governor-General, would act on the advice of our Ministers of Government so that she is symbolic, the Queen is symbolic so that our idea of the proposal is that the Governor-General will be just like the Queen in Belize. He will be a Belizean but he'd be like the Queen and has just as much power as she has - ceremonials, that's the proposals. The proposal is that since he is her representative she appoints him that he stays there until she doesn't want him any more right. But when she is making her appointment she consults the Prime Minister because obviously the Prime Minister may have an objection so that that is the proposal here now if the men's group feel that that isn't good we want to hear.

Arzu: No, I go along with that. That's all.

Courtenay: Thank you very, very much, Mr. Arzu. Just one question Mr. Arzu.

Marin: You've made your observations Mr. Arzu, but you haven't said whether you support the White Paper?

Arzu: Yes, we do support the White Paper and all, the terms it has, except the consultation of the Opposition, he shouldn't be consulted, especially this one we have right now.

Courtenay: Thank you very much.

Your name, please.

Mr. Mahung: Paul Mahung.

Courtenay: And you live in Punta Gorda?

Mahung: Yes.

Courtenay: Do you represent anybody, or do you come as a citizen?

Mahung: On both terms I come in my capacity as Secretary of the People's United Party Toledo South Division. and of course, because I am given human rights I represent myself.

Courtenay: Yourself, thank you.

Mahung: And I would just like to comment that my remarks today also comes from some members of the South Electoral Division who will not be able to be here. The Chairman of that Division, Mr. Lee Usher will come in to talk here but for some of my colleagues who are not here from the Toledo South Electoral Division I would like to say we support it.

Courtenay: Thank you.

Mahung: First I would like to commend members of the Joint Select Committee one, because as a citizen I see it as a high esteem of democracy that citizens in our Belizean Society are given this chance to give proposals on the White Paper.

Courtenay: Thank you.

Mahung: I will be making a few proposals but in the end. As an individual I see this White Paper as an extremely sacred document. The reason being I am aware that this White Paper now distributed to people in Belize. I see it as a document that contains the proposed terms of constitution for our independent Belize. And this is why I see it as a sacred document. Of course, on behalf of all my other colleagues of the South Electoral Division who cannot be here. I publicly in your presence, would like to give our support for the White Paper. The reason being and I am going to generalize because there is so much and we could talk one full week of this. The reason that because this

Paper will contain the law for the preservation and as I see it so far, I've read it through carefully, the self promote preservation of the principals of the basic human rights in this democratic society and I see our society as a very democratic one. We support this White Paper in full also I see it as a document promoted social justice for all of us in our Belizean Society and primarily because it also secures the fundamental principles of freedom and human rights, and as I've read it through I am quite sure many other people have read it through this what I think they can generalize from it. And as you go through this document page by page and read it through carefully, a lot is said on my generalisation I made this morning. I stand for correction Sir. I might be making a mistake. I hope I've read carefully. I would like to recommend at this time and propose that something on our three important national symbols be included, and by national symbols I am referring to our Belizean National flag, our Belizean National Anthem and our Belizean National Prayer and they should be included in our proposals as part of the White Paper. Thank you Sir.

Courtenay: If I may ask just one question Mr. Mahung before you go. You've heard the situation today that there should be not only the inclusion of the symbols, but there should be tied to these symbols some form of sanctions and I use the word sanction very loosely, some form of first of all teaching the people respect and having taught them respect to maintain and see to it that the people do continue to have respect for these symbols. Would you support such a proposal?

Mahung: I support and I would like to endorse that and I am glad the way you use the word 'sanction' with loosely behind it.

Rogers: Do you also support Mr. Mahung a pledge of allegiance to offer the words of the pledge and to include it in the Constitution.

Mahung: I do support and I endorse the pledge. I am not really fussy if it is not included in there because there is so much to be included but quite sure if it can be included I would like it to be included,

Nusa: And you support the provision that a citizen can lose citizenship if he takes the allegiance to another country?

Mahung: I endorse and I support it.

Courtenay: Name please.

Mr. Avilez: Calvin Avilez., Vice Chairman, Toledo Branch of the People's United Party.

Mr. Avilez: I speak on behalf of the members of the People's United Party and the citizen of Belize and the Toledo District. I would like to make comments in support of the White Paper as it is and as proposed as a constitution for the Independent Belize. I do so because this White Paper I see as the result of the work of people who are charged to protect the interest of the people of Belize for the eternity, we hope our Independence will last. We notice that in the preamble Section A of the preamble it states that the people of Belize affirm that the Nation of Belize shall be founded upon principles the supremacy of God , faith in human rights and fundamental freedom, reference to God at such an early stage points out immediately the goodwill and the fact that Belize will continue to struggle but without our forgetting the Almighty. As it goes on in the preamble which is an outline of what the whole Constitution is about. I am happy to note that there is respect for the principles of social justices. It clearly says that labour is not to be exploited or forced by economic necessity. It went on to define and guarantee that will of the people will continue to be expressed through free elections and it goes on to speak about the protection of the citizens, protection of the rights of personal liberty protection of the law, protection from inhuman treatment, protection from forced labour, protection against arbitrary search or entry, protection of freedom of movement. In other words the whole atmosphere around which this document was drafted I am certain was intended as a protection to all the citizens of Belize. And for this reason I am very happy that these guarantees of protection are embedded in this draft constitution. And I am happy also that there are checks which will prevent the abuse of the rights and priveleges given by this constitution. For example on page 5 Section, (i) speaking about the protection of freedom of expression, which says everyone shall have the right to freedom of expression. This includes the right to communicate, ideas, freedom of the press and mass medium of communication except as is necessary for defence, public safety, public order, morality or health or for the protection of the rights and freedom of others, because you know that whenever it is convenient for people who are ready to take these rights to the extreme, forgetting that they are at the same time trampling on the rights of others and I am glad that this constitution has a check

to see that all this doesn't happen. I noted with interest when an elected Senate was proposed as it were to create some kind of balance well, I agree with the constitution as it is because the balance is there because it can happen that if there is a time, for example when one party could win every seat in the National Assembly and every seat in the Senate if they were elected then the Opposition would have no voice nowhere at all. This system as it gives the leader of the Opposition the opportunity to appoint somebody into the Senate whereby the voice of the Opposition will also be heard. And so to continue speaking on the rights, on the citizenship I am happy and I would like the Committee to make it clear, as clear as possible to everybody that Section 12. It says that on the day of the Independence of Belize, the following persons shall be entitled to be registered as a citizen of Belize.

It does not necessarily mean that come Independence Day tomorrow everybody who is the spouse of a Belizean citizen or is a resident of Belize for the period of five years immediately prior to the day of Independence automatically becomes a citizen. I am glad that in the Constitution is embedded, that they have an opportunity to become registered as Belizean citizens. All in all I see this sacred document as comparable to any of the best Constitutions of the world and as Vice Chairman of the People's United Party, Toledo South, I am very, very happy that I have the opportunity to express my support for this draft Constitution. Thank you.

Courtenay: Thank you very much Mr. Avilez.

Rogers: Well, Mr. Avilez' testimony has been so clear that I hardly can find room for a question.

Courtenay: Mr. Avilez, thank you very, very much. We really appreciate that you took the trouble to come out.

Rogers: Sitting this afternoon here in the Court House at Punta Gorda. Before we call on the next person who would wish to testify before this Committee I would like to read into the records a letter received from the Village Council of Jacinto Village in the Toledo District. It is addressed to the Select Committee, Independence Secretariat

Dear Sir:

We the villagers firmly support the conditions of the 'White Paper'. The terms are very much in agreement with the expectations of our villagers.

Please be assured that we are solidly behind you and we wish that other Belizeans throughout the length and breadth of Belize are thinking the same.

Let us now move forward to nationhood, as we take our rightful place among the other Independent nations of the world.

Signed by Mr. Gerald Williams, Chairman of Jacintoville.

We wish to place it in the records, this letter from the Chairman of the Village Council of Jacintoville and so let it be so reflected. Now the Committee will now resume its hearing and it is in order for anyone who wish to testify before the Committee on the White Paper before the Joint Committee. May we have the next witness.

Please state your name, please.

Mr. Usher: Lee Usher.

Rogers: Lee Usher, and you represent?

Usher: Chairman of the Executive Committee, Toledo South Electoral Division. I am also Councillor of the Punta Gorda Town Board.

Rogers: Yes, Mr. Usher please continue.

Usher: Now it has always been said that the Government of Belize communism. As far as the White Paper is concerned it does not prove so because here we have on page 3 Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. There shall be a declaration of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of the individual and provision for the enforcement thereof, as follows: and this one I should stress on because we all know that we all are Belizeans regardless of colour, race or creed. Belize shall be entitled to the following human rights and fundamental freedom in : life, liberty, security of the person and the protection of the law; and it goes further to say: freedom of conscience, of expression, of assembly and of association; respect of the private and family life, protection for the privacy of his home and recognition of his human dignity; and the enjoyment of property. As far as this White Paper is concerned and also the Government of Belize this White Paper is proving today that the Government is not communist. Again it goes further on page 4 Section (g) Protection of freedom of movement, - which in communist countries we don't have this or they don't have this. This shall include freedom to move freely throughout Belize, to live in any part of Belize and to leave Belize and immunity against expulsion from Belize. These are some of the things that I know that our Government, under the great hands of the Premier and his Ministers are not communist. Then still it goes further page 11 Section 39 -

There shall be a Leader of the Opposition who shall be appointed by the Governor-General. He shall be the member of the House of Representatives, who in the judgement of the Governor-General, is best able to command the support of a majority of those members who commands the support of the largest single group of members opposed to the Government. Now that again. And on page 23 here is this one where the Government is not taking away anything from the people of this country, and the people especially for the Civil Servants, Civil Services, teachers and so on to continue their good work. It says here, pensions - that's section 90, and I know a lot of people who are working under this section here are quite satisfied. The Law relating to pensions for members of the Public Service and to teachers shall remain in course. And apply to persons in the Public Services in relation to those already employed, already enjoying a pension shall remain unaltered, right. All pension and rights thereto stand charged on the consolidated revenue funds of Belize. Now the discretion relating to pensions formerly invested in the Governor shall be in the Governor-General acting on the advice of the Public Service Commission. Now I have gone far South, as far as Crique Sarco and all these people in that village are in support of the White Paper. As far as Crique Sarco. As it has always been said the People's United Party is branded of Communism, but this White Paper proves that Communist is not in our present Government today. So therefore I support, I fully support the White Paper.

Rogers: Thank you Mr. Usher. If there are any questions that members of the Committee, Mr. Usher, if not on behalf of the Committee, I wish to thank you very much. The Committee is now ready to hear any other person who would wish to make a statement before the Committee, commenting on the White Paper? Are there any other person who would wish to give their comments? either in writing or verbally?

Honourable C.L.B. Rogers - Your name please

Adolfo Assi: - My name is Adolfo Assi

Honourable C.L.B. Rogers - Mr. Adolfo Assi

help us with the last name
how you spell it

Adolfo Assi - Assi

Honourable C.L.B. Rogers - And you are from where Mr. Assi

Adolfo Assi: - From the village of San Antonio

Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - From the village of San Antonio
and you represent?

Adolfo Assi: - I represent - myself the White
Paper that is issued by our
Government.

Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - Yes, as a citizen
Please go on Mr. Assi

Adolfo Assi: - According to the White Paper
issued by our Government, I
think it is a good idea for full
Independence and I fully support
it.

Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - Good idea to get our full
Independence

Adolfo Assi: - Yes

Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - Yes, anything else Mr. Assi

Adolfo Assi - to live free as we are living
today

Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - to live free as we are living
today
yes, thank you very much
your statement will go down in
the records
This Committee wish to thank you
very much.

Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - Any other Citizen or representative
Yes sir, have a seat and tell us
you name

Emilio Cowo: - My name is Mr. Emilio Cowo from
San Antonio

Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - Mr. Emilio Cowo

Mr. Cowo: - From San Antonio, Chairman, The
Village Council-Chairman, of the
Village Council. I am from the
Electric Plant.

Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - The Village Electric Plant,
Chairman of the Electric Plant.

Mr. Cowo: - And a member of the Committee

Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - Yes, please proceed, Mr. Cowo

Mr. Cowo: - I am very grateful for me to present myself to you that the Constitution which is in the White Paper we support it. We the supporters of the People's United Party thank you very much.

Hpn. C.L.B. Rogers - Mr. Cowo you wish to say something else

Mr. Cowo: - So as I said I also agree to it and also the People of Toledo.

Hpn. C.L.B. Rogers - Thank you very much for your the Chairman of the Village Council and a member of the Committee and the Electric Plant there and the Committee wish to extend its thanks to you for a very precise and clear statement of support. You may report that back to San Antonio. We thank you very much.

Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - Any other Citizen wish to appear before the Committee?
Please do have a seat
Can we have your name first?

Carmella Bonelli - Carmella Bonelli

Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - Carmella Bonelli and you spell Bonelli
How? Bonelli
Where are you from Miss Bonelli

Carmella: - Forest Home

Hpn. C.L.B. Rogers - Forest Home
And you represent

Carmella: - Forest Home Village Council

Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - Forest Home Village Council

Carmella - Dear Sir,
We the people of Forest Home support the White Paper that has been well studied by our able Government. I as Assistant Chairlady of my village I endorse all the movements of our Government and I can assure that the people of Forest Home is on our side. We want to be free from colonialism, we want to be an independent nation in the heart of the Caribbean Basin. I thank you.
Yours respectfully,
Carmella Bonelli

Hon. C.L.B. Rogers

Thank you Miss Bonell. I don't know how to see this thing. You have to tender the paper yes because the lighting is not so good, but it is here and we wish to place on record the statement read by Miss Carmella Bonell and it is directed to the Joint Select Committee and it says:

Dear Sir,

We the people of Forest Home support the White Paper that has been well studied by our able Government. I as the Assistant Chairlady of my village I endorse all the movement of our Government and I can assure that the people of Forest Home is on our side, We want to be free from colonialism, we want to be an independent nation in the heart of the Caribbean Basin. I thank you.

Yours respectfully,

Carmella Bonell

And a letter from Forest Home too, addressed to the Joint Select Committee, and it says:

On behalf of the villagers of Forest Home Village, Toledo District we wholeheartedly supported the White Paper on the proposed terms of a constitution for the independent Belize, which we feel that there should not be anything to hold back our Belizean Independence. Forest Home villagers join hands with the rest of the country for a free and secure independence with all territory intact from the Rio Hondo to the Sarstoon and from Half Noon Caye to Benque Viejo and with God's guidance we must obtain our just objective.

Our submission to the White Paper are as follows:-

- (1) National Prayer
- (2) National Anthem

(3) National Flag

Yours for an Independent Belize
signed: H.L. Parham, Forest Home
Village, Chairman

We wish that you will convey back
and we will be writing to Mr. Parham
the thanks of this Committee for a
very clear letter of support to the
Committee and the proposal that in-
cluded in the constitution should be:

- (1) The National Prayer
- (2) The National Anthem and
- (3) The National Flag.

We thank you again let the record
show that this letter was presented.
Thank you very much.

Hpn. C.L.B. Rogers

- Any other Citizen wish to appear
before this Committee he or she may
do so now the committee is still in
session.

Please state your name? Please have
a seat.

State your name?

Cayetano Ico

- Cayetano Ico

Hon. C.L.B. Rogers

- Mr. Cayetano please help us with
the last name.

Cayetano Ico

- Ico

Hon. C.L.B. Rogers

- Ico, Cayetano which village do you
represent.

Cayetano

- Laguna Village

Hon. C.L.B. Rogers

- Of Laguna Village Toledo

Mr. Ico please tell us what you want
to tell us.

Cayetano

- Well I just want to mention a few
words being that we are in this country
for the Government, and I am very
proud to say that we just hope that
we have a free and Independent nation
to become citizen of the country so
I don't know if it is very
appreciatable for me to ask some
questions. I don't know if you mind.

Hon. C.L.B. Rogers

- We do appreciate that and one way we
are here to hear people. We don't
want to talk, we want to hear people,
The White Paper speaks for itself.

- But we would clarify clear up anything that is in a citizen mind but, we don't want to make statements. It is your day. So do, what is it do you wish to say?
- Cayetano - As far as this White Paper is concerned I try to read it but I could not understand.
- Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - Yes, well could you help him with some ideas:
- Mr. Courtenay - First of all, this is the White Paper that you say anything about defence. All it says about defence is the responsibility for defence is a transfer from the Governor to a Minister of the Government of Belize. So the first thing you will have to understand is that defence is going to be in our own hands and that's the first thing but as the Premier already announce, the Premier has said to the people of this country that the British are not going to go away just because we become Independent that have promised us to see us safely through independence and then when the Government gets the responsibility along with our own soldiers our BDF - which we are developed we will be making agreements with other countries to come and help us, if we need it, if we may not need it, but if the day comes when we need it then we will be making arrangements for the uptights alright, but the thing is - the Big Thing is we will be making the arrangements that we want not the arrangements that the British want. Okay,
- Cayetano - Yes Sir
- Thank you a lot and I have the play to join hands with the citizen of Belize to support the White Paper so thank you.
- Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - Well, we thank you Mr. Ico, let the record show that the Committee thanks Mr. Ico for his statement of support to the White Paper. Thank you very

much.

Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - You name please
Sinicb Cho - Sinicio Cho
Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - First one - yes Mr. Sinicio Cho
Of what village are you?
Sinicio - From San Antonio
Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - San Antonio
Yes Mr. Cho
Sinicio - Yes, I am supporting this White Paper
here, I want Belize to be an
Independent Nation with all its
territory.
Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - Yes, Mr. Cho with all its territory.
We thank you for that clear statement.
Yes, that's what he said he supports
the White Paper first statement.
Second statement is that he wants Belize
to be an independent nation with all
its territory - important to all. We
thank you very much.

Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - Any other citizen wishes to appear
at this time?.....Your name please?
Aluberto Cal - Aluberto Cal.
Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - From which village?
Aluberto Cal - Columbia Village.
Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - Please tell the Committee, Mr. Cal in
your own words what you think about the
White Paper.
Aluberto Cal - On behalf of San Pedro Columbia, we
support the White Paper, especially
page three, on Human Rights, and these
are very important rights.
Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - Let me just get one thing clear, are
you with the Village Council? or
appearing just as a citizen?
Aluberto Cal - As a farmer and a Justice of the Peace.
Hon C.L.B. Rogers - Good; we must put that on this title.
We thank you for a brief and clear
statement Mr. Cal.

Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - Your name please?
Cirilio Avila - Cirilio Avila.
Hpn. C.L.B. Rogers - You give a letter addressed to the
Chairman of the Joint Select Committee

Yes; the letter say's - Sir on behalf of the United Womens Group of Barranco Village, we have already arrived to the question concerning the new constitution of the White Paper. The United Womens group of Barranco is strongly supporting the Government of Belize and also the White Paper to full support to an Independent Belize with all its territory.

Signed; P. Nolberto, Chairlady of the Womens Group of Barranco. Let the record show that this letter was entered from the Women's Group of Barranco. Now, Mr. Avila, are you appearing on your own behalf; or whom do you represent?

- Cirilio Avila - Toledo Development Union; Christian Workers Development Union.
- Hpn. C.L.B. Rogers - I see; Christian Workers Development Union. Please proceed; and you are from Punta Gorda?
- Cirilio Avila - I am from Punta Gorda.
- Hpn. C.L.B. Rogers - This is addressed to the members of the Joint Select Committee. Gentlemen; and the letter head is from the Toledo Christian Workers Development Union, Punta Gorda Town, Toledo District, Belize. 16th February, 1981
Gentlemen the abovenamed Organization Exective Council and its group general membership, fulling support the Independence of Belize as annunciated on the Government White Paper. Near perfect as the proposed constitution is; we find that the following points need to be taken into consideration into account, if a real check and balance system is to be maintained.
 1. Equal rights for all workers regardless of race; creed and/or colour;
 2. A workable Code of Conduct for all members of the National Assembly and the Public Officers.

- 3. A practical minimum wages for manual labour.

We wish to mention that only a secure arrangement for our Independence can be relaid upon.

But under no circumstances must any of our land be given to Guatemala for a settlement of the Dispute.

Signed: Mr. Herman M. Lewis and Mr. Cyrilio Avila, President & Treasurer, respectively.

Let the record show that this letter was presented by Mr. Cyrilio Avila. We thank you for very precise statement.... It's in order, you name please?

Eustacio Hernandez

- Eustacio Hernandez

Hon. C.L.B. Rogers

- From where are you Mr. Hernandez, and whom do you represent?

Eustacio Hernandez

- Member of the Village Council, and I am from Toledo Big Falls.

Hpn. C.L.B. Rogers

- Yes! Please proceed

Eustacio Hernandez

- I announce that we support the White Paper and propose to go ahead with the proposed constitution.

Hon. C.L.B. Rogers

- Well the Committee wish to place on record its thanks for your statement of support. Thank you very much Mr. Hernandez.....

Hpn. C.L.B. Rogers

- Any other citizen wishes to come before the Committee.....Your name please?

Santiago Cus

- Santiago Cus.

Hon. C.L.B. Rogers

- And from where are you Sir?

Santiago Cus

- San Miguel Village.

Hon. C.L.B. Rogers

- The village of San Miguel; are you a member of the Village Council?

Santiago Cus

- No, I am just a citizen.

Hon. C.L.B. Rogers

- As a citizen that's all we want. You have a right as a citizen. What would you like to tell the Committee?

Santiago Cus

- I would like to tell the Committee that I support the White Paper and the Independence of Belize.

Hon. C.L.B. Rogers

- You support the White Paper and the Independence of Belize; that's clear. We thank you very much.

Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - Your name?
 Alberto Herron - Alberto Herron.
 Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - From which village?
 Alberto Herron - 14½ miles! I support the White Paper and the Independence of Belize, with all its territories.
 Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - Mr. Herron states that he supports the White Paper and the Independence of Belize with all its territory. Well the Committee would like to place on record its thanks to Mr. Herron for the statement of support.

Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - Tell us your name?
 Valentina Coc - Valentina Coc.
 Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - And from where are you Mrs. Coc?
 Valentina Coc - San Antonio
 Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - San Antonio.....please proceed!
 Valentina Coc - I support the proposed judicial White Paper and want Belize to be Independent with all its territory.
 Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - The records show that Mrs. Coc supports the White Paper and Independent Belize with all its territory.
 Thank you very much Mrs. Coc.

Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - Your name please?
 Hermino Sho - Mr. Hermino Sho, Chairman of Pueblo Village Council. The People's United Party support the Independent of Belize and the White Paper
 Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - Mr. Sho supports the White Paper and the Independence of Belize with all its territory. You said something before that; You feel comfortable! You said Mr Sho, its important that we take down this that the People's United Party feel comfortable with the Independence of Belize. Let the record show that this Committee thank Mr. Sho for this clear statement. Thank you very much Mr. Sho.

Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - May we have your name please?
 Henrieta Enriquez - Henrieta Enriquez
 Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - Henrieta Enriquez

Treasurer of the United Women's Group.
Yes, Miss Enriquez. The record show that you are supporting the White Paper and the Independence of Belize with all its territory.

Anything else Miss Enriquez

Miss Enriquez - No Sir
Hon C.L.B. Rogers - Thank you very much let the record show that the committee thanks Miss Enriquez.

Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - Your name please?
Victoria Bol: - Victoria Bol
Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - Victoria Bol - San Antonio - and are you for yourself or for another division?

Victoria Bol - For myself. I support the White Paper for the independence of Belize with all its territory.

Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - Miss Bol would like to support the White Paper and the Independence of Belize with all its territory. Let the record reflect that and let the Committee - record also reflect that the committee thanks Miss Bol for her very clear statement of support.
Thank you very much.

Victoria Bol - You are welcome.

Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - Your name please?
Ponciano Bol - Ponciano Bol
Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - Mr. Ponciano Bol - as a citizen
Mr. Bol - Yes, as a citizen
Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - Yes Mr. Bol
Mr. Bol - I would like to fully support the White Paper and the Independent Belize with all its territory.

Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - Let the record show that Mr. Ponciano Bol supports the White Paper and the Independence of Belize with all its territory and let it also show that this committee thanks Mr. Bol for a very clear support.
Thank You.

Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - Your name please?

Serapio Che - Serapio Che
 Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - Mr. Serapio Che
 Mr. Che - Silver Creek
 Hon C.L.B. Rogers - Silver Creek - Toledo and Mr. Che are you what?
 Mr. Che - Chairman of Village Council of Silver Creek
 Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - Chairman of Village Council
 Mr. Che - I fully supported the White Paper of Independence
 Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - Mr. Che let the record show that you support the White Paper and Independence of Belize with all its territory and let the record also show that this committee thanks Mr. Che for his clear support.
 Mr. Che - Thank you very much.

Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - Your name
 Domingo Shack - Domingo Shack
 Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - Spell that name, how do you spell it?
 Domingo Shack - SHACK
 Hon. Rogers - SHACK, Yes what village Mr. Shack?
 Domingo Shack - Village of Indian Creek - Chairman - Village of Indian Creek - and he is Chairman of the Village Council. Yes Mr. Shack tell us
 D. Shack - Well we are also supporting the White Paper and the Independence of Belize with all its territory.
 Hon. Rogers - Let the record show that Mr. Domingo Shack the Chairman of the Village Council supports the White Paper and the Independence of Belize with all its territory and let the record show that this committee thanks Mr. Shack for all his excellent support.
 Thank You.

Hon. Rogers - Yourname please?
 Benito Canti - Mr. Benito Canti
 Hon. Rogers - Canto - Canti - How do you spell it?
 Benito - CANTI
 Hon. Rogers - Of what
 Benito - Santa Cruz
 Hon. Rogers - Santa Cruz - Toledo
 Benito - And Chairman of the Village Council
 Hon. Rogers - Chairman of the Village Council of

Benito - Santa Cruz. Yes Mr. Canti
 We support the White Paper and the
 Independence of Belize and all its
 territory.

Hon. Rogers - Let the record show that the Chairman
 of the village Council on behalf of
 the Village council supports the white
 paper and the Independence of Belize
 with all its territory and let the
 records also show that this committee
 thanks Mr. Canti for his clear
 support. Thank You. It is confirmed
 that he receives this letter.

Hon. Rogers - Name

Apolonio Sho - Apolonio Sho

Hon. Rogers - Mr. Apolonio Sho

Apolonio - From Pueblo Viejo

Hon. Rogers - Pueblo Viejo - Toledo and you are Mr.
 Sho

Apolonio - Secretary of the Alcalde

Hon. Rogers - Secretary of the Alcalde
 Yes Mr. Sho

Apolonio - I am here supporting the White Paper
 and the independence of Belize with
 all its territory with all its nation
 with security and freedom from Rio
 Hondo to Old Sarstoon and from Half
 Moon Caye to Jalacte.

Hon. Rogers - To Jalacte - we understand what you
 mean that length and breadth of the
 country.

Hon. G.L.B. Rogers - We thank you very much for your
 precise support Mr. Secretary to the
 Alcalde; Mr. Apolonio Sho

Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - Your name please?

Eladio Chiac - Mr. Eladio Chiac.

Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - Chiac; and you are from where, Sir?

Eladio Chiac - Santa Elena and I am the Chairman of
 the Santa Elena Village Council.

Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - This is the Chairman of the Santa
 Elena Village. Yes Mr. Chiac.

Eladio Chiac - I support the White Paper and
 Independence of Belize with all its
 territory.

Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - Mr. Chiac states that on behalf of

the Village Council of Santa Elena that he supports the White Paper and the Independence of Belize with all its territory. Let the record show that this committee expresses its appreciation for the clear support of Mr. Chiac. Thank you very much. Please convey that to the Village Council.

Hon. C.L.B. Rogers	-	Yes; your name?
Pedro Pop	-	Pedro Pop
Hon. C.L.B. Rogers	-	Pedro Pop, and from where are you Mr. Pop?
Pedro Pop	-	From Santa Cruz Village.
Hon. C.L.B. Rogers	-	From the Village of Santa Cruz and you are appearing as a citizen?
Pedro Pop	-	Yes; and I am supporting the White Paper and the Independence of Belize with all its territory.
Hon. C.L.B. Rogers	-	Mr. Pop supports the White Paper and Independence with all its territory. We wish to thank you for your clear statement and support.

Hon. C.L.B. Rogers	-	Your name please?
Vicente Chun	-	Vicente Chun
Hon. C.L.B. Rogers	-	From where are you Mr. Chun?
Vicente Chun	-	San Jose
Hon. C.L.B. Rogers	-	Mr. Chun; are you appearing as a citizen.
Vicente Chun	-	Yes, as a citizen and I support the White Paper and the Independence of Belize with all its territory.
Hon. C.L.B. Rogers	-	Mr. Chun supports the White Paper and the Independence of Belize with all its territory. Well this committee would like to thank you very much for your support.

Hon. C.L.B. Rogers	-	Your name please?
Benigno Sho	-	Benigno Sho of San Jose
Hon. C.L.B. Rogers	-	From San Jose. Are you appearing as yourself or representing somebody?
Benigno Sho	-	I am representing the Village Council of San Jose being the Alcalde of the Village Council.

Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - The Alcalde of San Jose Village.
Benigno Sho - I support the White Paper and the
Independence of Belize with all its
territory.
Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - Let the record show that Mr. Sho
supports the White Paper and the
Independence of Belize with all its
territory. Let the committee record
show that the Committee extend its
appreciation to Mr. Sho, Alcalde of
San Jose Village Council for a clear
statement.

Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - What is your name?
Thelma Flores - Thelma Flores
Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - And from where are you?
Thelma Flores - Punta Gorda
Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - So you are from Punta Gorda and you
are appearing as a citizen; right!
Thelma Flores - Yes; I support the White Paper and
Independent Belize with all its
territory.
Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - Let the record show that Miss Thelma
Flores supports the White Paper and
the Independence of Belize with all
its territory. Also let it show that
this committee extends its appreciation
to it for a quite clear support.
Thank You.

Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - Please your name?
Manuel Ak - Manuel Ak.
Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - Mr. Manuel Ak, and you are from where?
Manuel Ak - Pueblo Viejo.
Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - Mr. Manuel Ak, Alcalde of Pueblo Viejo.
Yes Mr. Ak
Manuel Ak - I support the White Paper and the
Independence of Belize with all its
territory and our British protector.
Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - Let the record show that Mr. Ak
supports the White Paper and the
Independence with all its territory.
Thank you very much for your support.

Mrs. Rafael Coc - Mr. Rafael Coc, J.P.
Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - and where are you from?

- Rafael Coc - Pueblo Viejo
- Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - Mr. Rafael Coc is Justice of the Peace from the village of Puebl Viejo.
- Rafael Coc - I am representing myself as a citizen of Belize, I am also representing my people of Pueblo Viejo to give full support this movement of the White Paper on the full Independence of Belize and all its territory.
- Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - and we have the support of the White Pper, and the Independence of Belize with all its territory. You have said something before that,
- Mr. Coc - That the People of Pueblo Viejo fully supports because everybody cannot be here today.
- Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - We understand and we are glad you did. Well this Committee wish to thank you for such a clear statement and support and please convey back to the people of Pueblo Viejo. Thank You.

-
- Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - Yes Mr.....
- Francis Martinez - Francis B. Martinez Justice of the Peace. I am completely satisfied with what they are doing here and there is nothing wrong with it, except that we should support the White Paper wholeheartedly.
- Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - He supports the White Paper wholeheartedly
- Francis Martinez - Regarding the defence Minister Courtenay made a statement a while ago that in the circumstances of Independence there will be a minister of defence responsible for the defence of Belize and that the Premier has made a statement in the recent part saying that the British will remain us into Independence until we have secured ourselves before they withdraw. So in fact the Independence we repeat is a secure Independence.
- Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - That is all?
- Martinez - That is all I ask about the Land Sea and Air.
- Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - Well we are looking up that too, the expansion of our defence capability. Thank you Mr. Martinez.

- Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - Yes, your name?
A. Mangi - Ambrosine Mangi.
Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - From where, and are you appearing on your own?
Ambrosine Mangi - Elridge, and I am appearing as a citizen. On behalf of myself and my husband.
Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - On behalf of your family what would you like to tell the Committee Mrs. Mangi?
Ambrosine Mangi - Being a supporter of the People's United Party I fully support the White Paper and have nothing to add about the White Paper and I wish that Belize will get its secure Independence with all its territory as we would want to have all our rights for ourselves.
Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - Well it only remain for me to thank you on behalf of the committee for your clear statement and support.

-
- Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - Next Citizen, your name please?
Victoriano Cho, - Victoriano Cho, from San Antonio.
Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - And you are appearing on your own behalf as a citizen?
V. Cho - Yes, as a citizen.
Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - Mr. Cho Go ahead.
V. Cho - I fully support the White Paper and the Independence of Belize with all its territory.
Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - Let the records show that Mr. Cho fully supports the White Paper and the Independence of Belize with all its territory, and let the records show also that the committee extends its thanks to you for your full support. Thank You.

-
- Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - Next citizen.....Your name?
Ilario Ical - Ilario Ical from Santa Elena.
Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - Santa Elena and you are here as Alcalde of Santa Elena, Yes Mr. Ical?
Ilario Ical - I support the White Paper and want Belize to be Independent with all its territory because they want the land of Belize to be free/
Hon. C.L.B. Rogers - That's a real Independence Mr. Ical. Let the record show that the committee extend its thanks to Mr. Ical.

Hon. C.L.B. Rogers
Domingo Chiquin

- Your name please?
- Domingo Chiquin from Indian Creek. Secretary to the Village Council. I support the White Paper and the Independence of Belize with all its territory.

Hon. C.L.B. Rogers

- Let this Committee show on record that Mr. Chiquin supports the White Paper and the Independence of Belize with all its territory. We thank you very much.

Hon. C.L.B. Rogers
Rufino Coc

- Your name please?
- Rufino Coc, Second Alcalde from San Antonio Village Council. I support the White Paper and the Independence of Belize with all its territory.

Hon. C.L.B. Rogers

- We would like to thank Mr. Rufino Coc on behalf of this committee for your support.

Hon. C.L.B. Rogers
Porfilio Coc

- Your name please?
- Mr. Porfilio Coc from Santa Cruz, First Alcalde. I fully support the White Paper and the Independence of Belize with all its territory.

Hon. C.L.B. Rogers

- He fully supports. This Committee would like to thank you very much for your support.

Hon. C.L.B. Rogers
Frederick Coc

- Your name please?
- Frederick Coc from San Antonio.

Hon. C.L.B. Rogers

- Tell us your position on the White Paper Mr. Coc.

Frederick Coc

- I fully support the White Paper and Independence of Belize with all our beautiful land and not to give any of our land to Guatemala.

Hon. C.L.B. Rogers

- He supports and that is very clear statement. Thank you Sir.

Hon. C.L.B. Rogers
Frances Rosa
Hon. C.L.B. Rogers
Frances Rosa

- My dear, what is your name?
- Frances Rosa from Punta Gorda.
- And what are you?
- Sports Manager of United Women's Group. I support the White Paper and Independence of Belize with all its

territory and hope that we could get Independence this year.

Hen. C.L.B. Rogers

-

You are supporting the White Paper and Independence of Belize and hope we get it this year. I want to thank you on behalf of the Committee. First of all do you understand the White Paper?

Frances Rosa

-

Yes.

HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Your name, please.
E. CASTILLO: Eli Castillo.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Miss Eli Castillo. P.G?
E. CASTILLO: Punta Gorda.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Yes, and you are appearing.....
E. CASTILLO: I am a Member of the People's United Party.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: And you are appearing as a citizen.
E. CASTILLO: Yes, a citizen.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Citizen, right. What is your position on the
White Paper Miss Eli?
E. CASTILLO: I am supporting it.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Supporting the White Paper. Yes, and
.....
E. CASTILLO: For a secure Independence of Belize with all its
territory.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: This Committee would like to thank you. I am
thanking you on behalf of the whole committee
for your fair support.

HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Yes, your name please.
D. PETILLO: Dominga Petillo.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: And you are from P.G. too?
D. PETILLO: Right.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: As a citizen?
D. PETILLO: Yes, sir.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: And what have you to say about the White Paper?
Do you support it?
D. PETILLO: Yes.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: She supports the White Paper.
D. PETILLO: And the Independence.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: And the Independence of Belize. Yes.
D. PETILLO: With all its territory.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: With all its territory.
Well Miss Petillo I have to extend the thanks
of this Committee for such a clear statement.
D. PETILLO: Thank you.

HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Yes, your name, please.
J. CUS: Jose Cus.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Of?
J. CUS: San Miguel.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: San Miguel, Toledo.
You are appearing as a citizen.
J. CUS: Citizen, yes.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Tell us what you think.
J. CUS: I support the White Paper for an Independent
Belize with all its territory.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Yes. And this Committee would like to thank
you for that clear support.

HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Your name, please.
S. GARCIA: Sebastian Garcia.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: From where Mr. Garcia?
S. GARCIA: Santa Elena.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: And you are appearing as a citizen.
S. GARCIA: We came to the meeting to support Independence
and the White Paper.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: With all its territory.
S. GARCIA: Yes, with all its territory.
F. J. MARIN: Anything else you would like to say?
S. GARCIA: Well I am not going to say much.
F. J. MARIN: Thank you very much.

HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Your name?
E. CHO: My name is Flavio Cho.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: From where Mr. Cho?
E. CHO: Santa Elena.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: As a citizen?
E. CHO: As a citizen.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: And what would you like to say?
Do you support the White Paper?
E. CHO: Yes, it is good.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: And the Independence of Belize?
E. CHO: Yes.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: What do you have to say? Do you want Independence
or not?

E. CHO: It is good.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: He says he supports the White Paper and
Independence is good. Well we would like
to thank you very much.
E. CHO: That is o.k.

HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: What is your name?
C. CUS: Castulo Cus.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Of what village?
C. CUS: San Pedro Columbia.
F. J. MARIN: Chairman of the Village Council.
C. CUS: Well, on behalf of the people of Toledo North
I come to fully support the White Paper.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: On behalf of the people of Toledo North of San
Pedro Columbia the Chairman of the Village
Council, Mr. Castulo Cus, fully supports the
White Paper.
C. CUS: That is all, sir.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: And the Independence of Belize. Tell me what you
think about that?
C. CUS: I support that also.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: And the Independence of Belize with all its
territory.
I want to thank you. Please convey to your people
the thanks of this Committee and I trust in them.

HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Please sit down, please. Your name, please.
G. AVILA: Guillermo Avila.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Mr. Guillermo Avila. Of where Mr. Guillermo Avila?
G. AVILA: P.G.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Punta Gorda. You appear as a citizen.
G. AVILA: A citizen and as a Member of the P.U.P. Executive.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: And as who? As a Member of the Executive. As
a citizen and he also appears as a Member of
which one? That's Toledo South? Yes, Mr. Avila,
please tell us your views.

G. AVILA: I fully support the White Paper thoroughly.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: En toto.
G. AVILA: Go forward with the Independence of Belize.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Go forward with the Independence of Belize.
That's a clear statement and I want to thank
you on behalf of this Committee for such a
clear statement.
Thank you very much.

HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Your name, please.
V. CHOCO: My name is Vicente Choco.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Mr. Vicente Choco.
V. CHOCO: First Alcalde from San Pedro Columbia. I am
supporting the White Paper, we the people, and
the Independence of Belize with all the territory
and the security of Independence. Thank you.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Well this Committee would like to thank you for
such a clear statement. We understand your
point. Thank you very much.

HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Your name, please.
M. AVILA: Morris Avila.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Mr. Morris Avila.
M. AVILA: I am a worker in the Punta Gorda Town Board.
I have studied the Constitution well. To me
it is quite in order.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: You have studied the Constitution well and it is
quite in order.
M. AVILA: Well it's quite in order for Belize to get its
Independence with its territory intact. I fully
support this as a Member of the P.U.P.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Yes, I understand that. This Committee would
like to thank you very much.

HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Yes. Your name, please.
C. AVILA: Clifford Avila.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Mr. Clifford Avila. Yes, Mr. Avila.
C. AVILA: P.G.

- HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Yes, Mr. Avila, P.G. And you appear as?
- C. AVILA: Councillor of the Punta Gorda Town Board.
- HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Councillor of the Punta Gorda Town Board right?
- C. AVILA: Right.
- HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Yes, Mr. Avila, what would you like to tell the Committee.
- C. AVILA: Well, I am here to support the Proposed Constitution of the People's United Party.
- HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Here to support the White Paper, yes.
- C. AVILA:and all the effort that the Ministers representing the Government is putting into this. I support this strongly.
- HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: You thank the Government for the efforts that have been put into this Paper.
- C. AVILA: Sir, I present this on behalf of my colleagues.
- HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: And let the record show that Mr. Clifford Avila has presented this Committee with a letter and it says 'our Belizean History tell us that the Baymen Flag, the Blue and White Flag, has been with us ever since the Battle of St. George's Caye with the Belize Coat of Arms in its centre. We feel that the proposed Belizean Flag is the most appropriate flag for our country; the proposed Belizean Anthem written by one of our most abled writers is also fitting to be our new nation's official anthem. We the Members of the People's United Party Toledo South Division have had an opportunity to thoroughly read the proposed Constitution for an Independent Belize. A large segment of the Party including some invited guests have held no less than three meetings at the Senator's office and thoroughly discussed the proposed Constitution. We feel following Senator Lewis's explanation that we understand the contents of the proposed Constitution for an Independent Belize. We, therefore, fully endorse it and request that the country's flag and anthem be an integral part of the Constitution. Signed Clifford E. Avila, Damien E. Martinez and Cirilo Avila and Herman Lewis.'
- We thank you for this letter - it will go in the records. Let the records show this was presented and we thank you Mr. Clifford Avila for your clear support.

C. AVILA: Thank you.

D. MARTINEZ: I support the White Paper.

HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Your name first, please.

D. MARTINEZ: Damien L. Martinez.

HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: This is the Damien. Damien L. Martinez of Punta Gorda. And you are here to support the White Paper. Yes, Mr. Martinez continue.

D. MARTINEZ: I have a question. I note on Section 41 that elected Members after Independence will represent a constituency comprising no less than 2,000 registered voters and no more than 3,000 until the number of elected members reach twenty-nine.

HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Section 41?

D. MARTINEZ: Section 41.

HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Yes, I got it. Section 41. Thereafter the number of elected members of the House of Representatives shall be determined by the Elections and Boundaries Commission constituted under the Representation of the People Ordinance, dividing the country, from time to time, into constituencies in a manner which will ensure that each elected member shall represent a constituency comprising no less than 2,000 registered voters and no more than 3,000 until the number of elected members of the House of Representatives reaches twenty-nine.

D. MARTINEZ: How soon will this be implemented after Independence because realizing that Toledo District presently comprises of about 1,500 regular voters in each division.

HON. V.H. COURTENAY: In each division?

D. MARTINEZ: In each division.

HON. V.H. COURTENAY:

HON. S. MUSA:

By then you should have the 2,000.

HON. V.H. COURTENAY:

Between now and then you have to do some registration, alright?

D. MARTINEZ:

O.K.

HON. C.L.B. ROGERS:

You may have enough population that were registered and it will be on registered voters not on the population.

HON. S. MUSA:

Mr. Chairman, I think the point should be made that if you are slightly under 2,000 it doesn't mean that those people are going to be disqualified. This is just the goal to aim for that.

HON. C.L.B. ROGERS:

In fact, the aim, the spirit of this is that it is more where the representation so wide and uneven like in Belize City where the Minister here represents a Constituency of some 6,000 and the next Minister represents one of about 1,500. Fourteen hundred.

HON. S. MUSA:

HON. C.L.B. ROGERS:

So that's why you see him lean to you because he understands the problem. It is to make representation more equal and as we have census particularly it's like the U.S. constitution that provides..... every time you find more people living in an area you change the area that doesn't affect it. The Minister is quite right. The spirit of this thing is that.

Now, let me read what you have given to me.

"It is the feeling of both the Members of the People's United Party and the citizenry of the Toledo District that the Anglo-Guatemalan Dispute ought not to be settled by giving away a part of the Toledo District. But we feel too that Independence is a right and certainly not a gift. We want Independence so that we may develop even more. However, we want our Independence to be secure, safe and lasting. Our defence guarantee must be intact. It is our ardent wish that we live in peace with our neighbours. We particularly want to live in peace with the people of the Republic of Guatemala. However, there must be no land cession and we are requesting that this clause be incorporated into our Constitution for an Independent Belize." Signed Councillor Clifford E. Avila,

Francis E. Martinez J.P. and Charles Alvarez representing the P.U.P. Toledo South Division and Chester Cabral representing Independent-minded people in the Toledo District, Damien L. Martinez also representing the independent-minded people, South Toledo Division.

We place it on record and we thank you for your support.

There is another one and this is specially from Mr. Damien, right.

Supporting the White Paper; trusting in the experience and efficiency of our Premier, Mr. George Cadle Price and to his workers, I feel confident that the proposed terms of the constitution is appropriate for a secure independence of Belize with all its territory intact. I fully support it. I think it's great - no land cession.
Damien L. Martinez.

We place it on record and we thank you very much.
Thank you.

D. MARTINEZ:

HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Yes, your name please.
J. COC: José Coc.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Mr. José Coc. You are from where Mr. Coc?
J. COC: Laguna Village.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Of Laguna Village. What are you there?
J. COC: Chairman of the Village Council.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Chairman of the Laguna Village Council. Yes, Mr. Coc?
J. COC: Well, I would like to say that on behalf of my people and I came personally to support the White Paper and the Independence of Belize.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: You support the White Paper and the Independence of Belize with all its territory.
J. COC: Right.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Well, we want to thank you very much and that is a clear statement. We understand you clearly.
Next Citizen please.

HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Your name.
A. MARTINEZ: My name is Agatha Martinez.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Yes, what you want to tell us.
A. MARTINEZ: I understand the White Book. I read it over and over so I support it.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: You support the White Paper?
A. MARTINEZ: I want my Independence now.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Very good. She wants her Independence now.
A. MARTINEZ: With all the territory.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Miss Agatha that's clear enough. This Committee thanks you very much.

HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Yes, sir, your name?
M. CARR: Mansel Carr.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Mr. Mansel, you are from P.G?
M. CARR: I am from Stann Creek but I work here.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: You reside here? That's what we want to know. You appear as a citizen?
M. CARR: Yes, sir.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Yes, Mr. Carr, tell us what you think.
M. CARR: I am working with the Ministry of Works.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Oh! you are an employee of the Ministry of Works? Yes, Mr. Carr?
M. CARR: I support the White Paper.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Support the White Paper. Yes, Mr. Carr?
M. CARR: And the Independence of Belize with all its territory.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Mr. Carr, we want to thank you very much for your clear support.
M. CARR: I hope that God may bless you all for all these hard work that you have done.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: I am glad for that. Thank you very much and he gives God's blessing upon us all. Thank you Mr. Carr.

HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Your name.
P. COC: Pio Coc from San Antonio.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Are you appearing as a citizen?

P. COC: Yes, sir. I am here to support the White Paper and the Independence of Belize with all its territory.

HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Yes. Well this Committee would like to thank you very much.

P. COC: Thank you very much.

HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Your name?

F. CHO: Felipe Cho.

HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Of what village Mr. Cho.

F. CHO: I come from San Jose.

HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: What would you like to say about the White Paper, Mr. Cho.

F. CHO: I thank the Premier.

HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Mr. Cho thanks the Premier for the White Paper. And you support it?

F. CHO: Yes, sir. I want Independence for Belize with all its territory and the dispute of Belize against Guatemala safe and secure.

HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: What's that about the dispute?

F. CHO: Well, I mean security.

HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: You want the security against the dispute. I understand that. Then I would want to thank you Mr. Felipe Cho Cho for your kind support. Thank you.

F. CHO: Thank you too.

HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Yes. Your name, please.

F. MORO: Francisca Moro.

HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Miss Francisca Moro. You are from? Your village first?

F. MORO: Fourteen (14) miles.

HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: You support the White Paper you said?

F. MORO: I support the White Paper and the Independence of Belize with all its territory.

HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: This Committee would like to thank you for your clear support. We understand you quite clearly.

HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Yes. Your name.
M. SALAM: Marcos Salam.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: And you are from?
M. SALAM: San Antonio.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Yes. Mr. Salam?
HON. F. J. MARIN: You are the Alcalde?
M. SALAM: Yes.
HON. F. J. MARIN: He is the Alcalde.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Alcalde. You must tell us.
M. SALAM: I am the Alcalde from San Antonio.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: What would you like to tell us about the White Paper.
M. SALAM: It is good.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: He supports the White Paper. And the Independence of Belize?
M. SALAM: Yes.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: He also supports the Independence of Belize with all its territory.

HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Your name, please.
B. AVILEZ: Beatriz Aviles from P.G.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: What would you like to tell us about the White Paper?
B. AVILEZ: I support the White Paper. Thanks to the Premier.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Well, this Committee wants to thank you for your support of the White Paper. Thank you very much Miss Beatriz Aviles.

HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Please come in citizen.
B. LEIVA: Bonifacio Leiva from P.G. I come to speak on the Paper for an Independent Belize. I support it.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: This Committee would like to thank you for your support. No questions?
B. LEIVA: No, sir.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: It's clear.

HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Your name?
C. NORALEZ: Clara Noralez.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: You are from P.G?
C. NORALEZ: Yes. I support the White Paper and the Independence of Belize.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: With all its territory?
C. NORALEZ: With all its territory.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: We want to thank you Miss Clara Noralez, for your support. No questions? So we could say you understand it. Thank you.

HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: What is your name?
F. BOL: My name is Fidencio Bol.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: And where are you from Fidencio?
F. BOL: San Antonio.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Yes, and what do you want to say?
F. BOL: I would like to say that I support the White Paper.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Anything else Fidencio? That is alright. You don't have to say more if you don't want to. This is what we are here for.
F. BOL: I just want to say that I support it.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: This Committee wants to thank you for your support for the White Paper.

HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: What is your name, please?
M. SENTINO: Mary Sentino.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Mary Sentino from P.G? What would you like to say to this Committee.
M. SENTINO: I would like to say that I support the White Paper.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: She supports the White Paper completely.
M. SENTINO: I would just like to ask one question. Citizenship.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Where is that page.
M. SENTINO: Page 8. No. 11.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: No. 11 - 'on the day of Independence of Belize, every person born in Belize shall become a citizen of Belize. So shall every person born outside Belize whose parent becomes a citizen on independence day or would have so become' - what do you want to know about that

HON. F.H. HUNTER: How you live here?
M. SENTINO: From very young. I don't even know the date I was born.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Well, your question is you want to know how you are qualified. Yes, you are entitled to be registered because you live in Belize. There is a part more than five years and I am trying to find that. But I know that it says that right in the constitution. Yes, look at (b) any other person - look at 12(b) 'any person who has been resident continuously in Belize for a period of five years immediately prior to the day of independence'.
HON. V.H. COURTENAY: That is as a citizen of Belize.
M. SENTINO: Yes.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: You got your citizenship.
Well, this Committee would like to thank you very much.
M. SENTINO: Thank you.

HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Your name.
J. CAL: Juan Cal.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: You are from where Mr. Cal?
J. CAL: I am from Silver Creek.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Are you here as a citizen?
J. CAL: Right.
HON. C. L.B. ROGERS: What would you like to say about the White Paper?
J. CAL: I am supporting the White Paper and an Independent Belize with all its territory.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Mr. Cal we understand your statement clearly and we wish to thank you very much for your statement. Next citizen.

HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Your name, please.
A. CASTRO: Anastacio Castro.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: And you are from P.G. right?
A. CASTRO: Citizen, sir.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: What have you to tell us about the White Paper?
A. CASTRO: Well, I support the White Paper and the social integrity of Belize.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: And the social integrity of Belize. I want to quote your words. That's what you tell us, right?
A. CASTRO: yes.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Well, we want to thank you very much
HON. V.H. COURTENAY: Did he say social integrity?
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: We have to put what he says - integrity. Well, I want to thank you on behalf of all my colleagues here for your statement. When you say the social integrity, what do you mean? I ask you this just for the clearness of it. I see they might not understand so let us make it clear.
A. CASTRO: I mean the territory.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: You mean the territory. Ah, good, fine. I have to get from your mouth. Thank you very much.

HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Your name, please.
L. WILLIAMS: Lloyd Williams, sir.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Mr. Williams are you from P.G?
L. WILLIAMS: I am from Cattle Landing Village, sir. I represent Cattle Landing.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Are you the Chairman?
L. WILLIAMS: Not really, I am in the Council.
HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Member of Village Council. Yes, Mr. Williams, go ahead. What have you to say.
L. WILLIAMS: I have this to say : we the villagers of Cattle Landing fully support the Independence of Belize. The White Paper which tells of the Independence of Belize was issued to us and we have an appointment of studying it's content. Mr. Lloyd Williams of the Village in consultation with the Honourable Senator of the Toledo District Division explains that with Independence there will be more development and a better life for all of us. We note, however, that the Belizean anthem and the Belizean flag are not in

the proposed constitution. We humbly beg that they be made a part of our new constitution. Thanks. Lloyd Williams. The Chairman had signed below, sir.

HON. V.H. COURTEMAY: Very good. Mr. Lloyd Williams supports the White Paper and that he would like included in the constitution the provision for the Belizean anthem and the Belizean flag and he tenders this.

HON. F.H. HUNDTER: What is the name of the Chairman?

L. WILLIAMS: Wayne Pratt, sir. He is the acting Chairman right now, Wayne Pratt.

HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Any other question of Mr. Williams, if not it only remains for me to thank you for coming before this Committee and making a clear statement.

L. WILLIAMS: Thank you, sir.

HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: We thank you and we note your proposals. Are there any other citizens?

HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Your name?

M. SAM: Manuel Sam.

HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Of?

M. SAM: Indian Creek.

HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: And are you appearing on your own behalf or as aare you a Member of the Village Council?

M. SAM: Yes.

HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Member of the Village Council. You are not the Alcalde?

M. SAM: No, I am the Vice-Chairman.

HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Oh! the Vice-Chairman. You must tell us man.

M. SAM: I am the Vice-Chairman of Indian Creek.

HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: Yes, Mr. Vice-Chairman, tell us what you think about the White Paper.

M. SAM: Well, my people say that we appreciate it in supporting the White Paper.

HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: The people of Indian Creek really support the White Paper.

M. SAM: And Independence with all its territory. We would like to go forward not reverse.

HON. C.L.B. ROGERS: They would like to go forward, not reverse. That's bad for an engine to go into reverse.

M. SAM: That is all that my people say.

HON. C.L.B. ROGERS:

Well, that is a clear message from the people of Indian Village. For that we would like to thank you for bringing that message. We would like you to take back to the people of Indian Creek our sincere thanks for your coming here today. Thank you.

M. SAM:

Yes, sir.

HON. C.L.B. ROGERS:

There seems to be no one else so let us read a letter from Senator Herman Lewis, Toledo South Electoral Division.

I have been directed by my Advisory Committee to make representation on its behalf, to the House of Representatives Joint Select Committee, in connection with the proposed Constitution for an Independent Belize. The bearer of this document, Mr. Chester Cabral, is an active member of the Senator's Advisory Committee. The Senator's Advisory Committee numbering 15 PUP members, has met thrice since the publication of the Belize Government's White Paper, the purpose of which was to thoroughly study the proposed Constitution.

The Advisory Committee is in full agreement with the contents of the proposed Constitution. However, it is the consensus of opinion that the following points to be taken into account in the proposed Constitution:

1. The official flag of the country be the present proposed flag of Belize;
2. The official anthem be the present proposed National Anthem;
3. In the past, members of the PUP Government have been accused of using their offices for their own selfish gain. We propose that a strong Code of Conduct be established;
4. Many civil servants don't seem to know how to approach and talk to members of the public, when they go to do business at Government Offices.

We propose that a system be established, whereby such civil servants can be reassigned to posts which will entertain such unbecoming attitudes.

Please put this on the records at the request of the Senator.

Members it seems that we have come to the end of the day.

HON. S. MUSA:

There is Senator Chun.

HON. C.L.B. ROGERS:

Any other person wishing to come to make representation before the Committee closes its hearing, please appear. Your name, please.

J. CHUN:

Juan Chun.

HON. C.L.B. ROGERS:

And you are a Senator?

J. CHUN:

Yes, sir.

HON. C.L.B. ROGERS:

Senator Juan Chun, what would you like to tell the Committee on the White Paper.

J. CHUN:

I come to tell the Committee that I fully support the proposed terms of a Constitution of Belize's Independence and also to put three other important proposals on the copy of this White Paper:

- 1) National Anthem;
- 2) Belizean flag; and
- 3) The Belizean National Prayer;

to continue the process on the Independence of Belize.

I am so happy this morning that we had very well people that came to talk on the White Paper from Toledo North and also from Toledo South.

HON. C.L.B. ROGERS:

We did not lack support.

J. CHUN:

I think the Committee is working hard and I think they have been working hard long ago and we can achieve this goal of Independence this year.

HON. C.L.B. ROGERS:

Thank you Senator. On behalf of all the Members here we would like to thank you for your clear statement and support and the support of the people which you represent. Please convey to them our thanks. Thank you very much.

Well, we had a good turn out. We started from 10:00 a.m. this morning until 12:00. We resumed at 2:00. We now adjourn our sitting in Punta Gorda and wish to state and share on behalf of my colleagues that we seem to have had a good cross-examination of the population of this district from all walks

of life, from the organizations and most importantly from people who are citizens. This Committee would like to go on record that it has started off its work with a very interesting and healthy response. We now adjourn and the next sitting will be at 9:00 tomorrow in Belize City.

Please, all Members be there at the City Hall, Belize City. We would like all preparations be made for that meeting.

The Committee stands adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

From: The TOLEDO NORTH CONSTITUENCY,
The TOLEDO SOUTH CONSTITUENCY,

To: The Joint Select Committee,
Punta Gorda Town, Toledo District,
BELIZE, CENTRAL AMERICA.

HAVING studied Government's White Paper, the Proposed
Terms of a Constitution for the INDEPENDENT BELIZE and,

RECOGNIZING that the present and previous Governments
of Belize have been consistent in the preservation of the
principles of basic human rights in a Democratic Society,

WE BELIEVERS of Toledo North give our unending
support to this White Paper which promotes social justice and
which secures the fundamental principles of freedom,

WE therefore recommend that the three important
symbols,

- 1) The Belizean National Flag
- 2) The Belizean National Anthem
- 3) The Belizean National Prayer

be embodied as part of the White Paper, the Proposed
Terms of a Constitution for the Independent Belize.

Ahumberto Cal, Justice of Peace - San Pedro Columbia
Francisco Ack, Big Falls Village
Pedro Choco, Alcalde - Silver Creek
Alvaro Sul, Pueblo Viejo Village
G. Salem, San Antonio Village
Dionisia Salem, San Antonio Village
Gwen Derke'h, Crique Eroso 13 Miles
Miguel Rush, Second Alcalde, Aguacate Village
John Cucul, Aguacate Village
Santiago Makin, Aguacate Village
Juan Shee, Aguacate Village
Marcos Kak, Aguacate Village
Feliz Cucul, Aguacate Village
Pablo Ack, Aguacate Village
Jose Cab, Aguacate Village
Juan Coc, Blue Creek Village
Aleandro Coc, Blue Creek Village
Pedro Ack, Blue Creek Village
Miguel Coc, Blue Creek Village
Louis Jan, Alcalde, Blue Creek Village
Esiquel Cucul, Blue Creek Village
Juan Cus, Blue Creek Village

San Pedro Columbia
Toledo District

18th February 1981.

Joint Select Committee
Belmopan
Cayo District.

• Dear Sir,

The San Pedro Columbia Lands Committee has fully supported the National Flag, national anthem, national prayer and the Constitution for the Independent Belize and with all its territory intact.

SGD. Castulo Cus
Santiago Coc

Short Title
(Col-Fax Assn)

Occupati n

Alumberto Cal
Alumberto Cus
Alfonso Chen
Andres Cus
Vecente Choco
Santiago Coc
Julio Sanchez
Isidro Lara
Luis Cus
Pedro Salam
Leonardo Acal
Slyvestre Cal
Castulo ds
Geronimo Coc

San Pedro Columbia,
Toledo District,
Belize,
Central America.

National Assembly.
Belmopan
Cayo District, Belize
Central America.

Dear Sir,

I have acknowledge receipt of your letter dated the
3rd February 1981.

It is understood that the National Assembly has
appointed a Joint Select Committee to consider proposals
for the Constitution for the Independent Belize.

This Independence Constitution will Guarantee All
Equal Human Rights From All Four Corners of Belize Regardless
of Races.

Therefore, to this White Paper The Columbia Farmers
Association are in full supporting For our lovely National
Flag, National Anthem, National Prayer and the constitution
Of Belize, a Security Independence with all its territory.

I am enclosing the names of the Columbia Farmers
Association whit (sic) their mighty support of this White
Paper.

Yours truly,

SGD. Castulo Cus
Chairman of Village Council.

Alcalde

Vicente Choco