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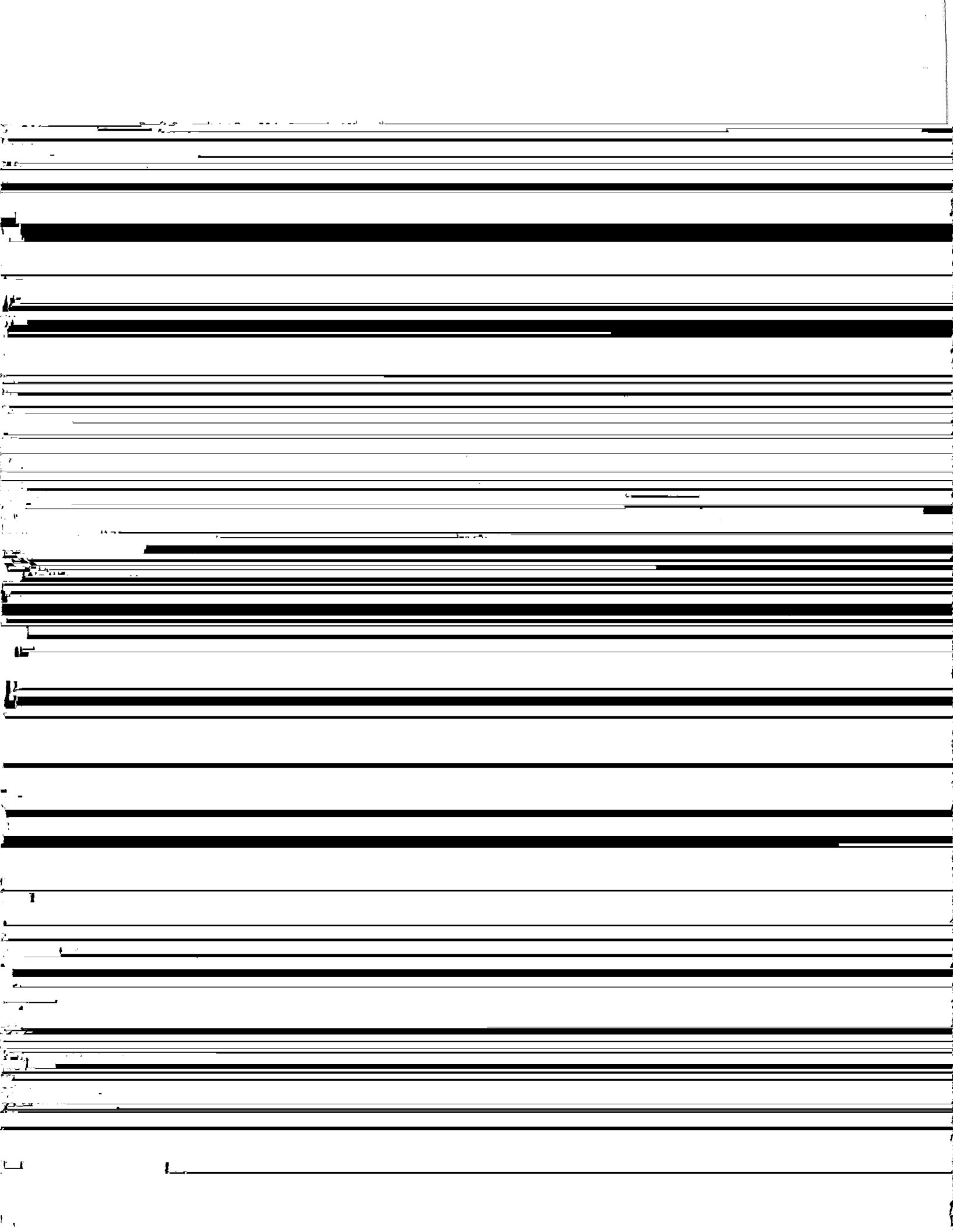
~~THIRD INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM~~

**Caribbean regional seminar on the implementation of the Third International  
Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: accelerating decolonization  
through renewed commitment and pragmatic measures**

**Saint George's, Grenada  
2 to 4 May 2019**

**STATEMENT BY**

**ROGER EDWARDS**



themselves as a people from more than 60 ethnic background groups living and working peacefully together for the common good.

We can now claim an A to Z of status holders, from Argentina to Zimbabwe, who have settled and integrated peacefully into our Islands and our society. Our population has grown and evolved in much the same way as in our neighbouring countries: immigrants who left their native homelands to seek favour and fortune in foreign countries.

~~Our parents, grandparents and great-grandparents came to the Islands from all over the world.~~

Since my last attendance at this Committee we have seen two meetings of the South Atlantic Fisheries Committee where Argentine and Falkland Islands scientists have exchanged fisheries data which is so important to the long term preservation of fish stocks in the South West Atlantic.

Falkland Island Government officials have had talks with a South American airline with a view to gaining a second flight from the South American mainland to the Falkland Islands on a weekly basis.

Following on from the assistance given to the International Committee of the Red Cross under the Humanitarian Project Plan, 112 of the 122 unknown Argentine soldiers lying in the Cemetery at Darwin have been identified and the Falkland Islands invited and facilitated two separate visits by family members who wished to come and pray at the gravesides of their lost sons.

Following the tragic loss of the Argentine submarine 'Santa Fe' and the mobilisation of search and rescue assets from our Islands a link has been established with the mainland to further enhance search and rescue facilities in the area.

The challenges we face are many. Our approach remains not to react to each and every external pressure but to continue to develop the economy in our own way, and to ensure we are not diverted by outside influences. We are clear that we will concentrate on our goals, on our agenda and not on someone else's.

Mr. Chairman, I am sure that the Falkland Islands will be a great success story and that the Committee will be most pleased to hear of our progress.