



20 September 2021

The Rt. Hon. Liz Truss
Secretary of State
Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Affairs
King Charles Street
London SW1

Dear Secretary of State:

May we present our compliments to you on your appointment, and to the government and people of the United Kingdom for their continuing friendship.

1. Colonia is an independent territorial sovereignty in the Spratly Islands, located at the geographic center of the South China Sea.
2. The territory was discovered by English Capt. Henry Spratly in 1791, and further by Capt Richard Spratly in 1843. While the territory was not inhabited, the names of the islands and features reflect their British heritage.
3. The original post-war claim was established as the "Cloma Claim" (from 1947), by Tomas Cloma. In 1952, when Japan renounced their overseas territories, including the Spratly Islands, Cloma asserted claim.
4. Cloma officially declared establishment of the "Free State of Freedomland" in 1956, by publication to the world, and by declaration at the UN.
5. Cloma changed the name to the "Principality of Freedomland" in 1972.
6. Cloma changed the name to "Kingdom of Colonia" in 1974.

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7. The Cloma Claim is well known to historians and legal scholars as the original post-War territorial claim in the Spratly Islands.
8. Cloma registered the maritime boundaries with the NOAA, and the UKHO.
9. These maritime boundaries have been internationally acknowledged since 1956, and continue to appear on all charts of the region.
10. Diplomatic support had been active with neighbouring Philippines for a period in the 1950-70s., and with Malaysia from 1975. Philippine and Malaysia support was withdrawn when these countries advanced their own EEZ claims over sections of the territory.
11. Cloma travelled to the UN in 1956 to announce the establishment of "Freedomland." He lobbied for support for Freedomland to be the central pillar to the security architecture of the South China Sea. Unfortunately at the time there was little interest in the region, and his proposals fell on deaf ears. Cloma attributed his failure at the UN to hostile Chinese (ROC) lobbying.
12. Cloma retired as Head of State in 1974. His successor John de Mariveles continued Cloma's efforts to promote the diplomatic, economic, and security interests of Colonia. In the 1980s, the Colonia representatives had a series of meetings with President Reagan, in the Oval Office. While there was initial enthusiasm for the Colonia proposition, no action was taken at that time.
13. From the 1980s, various competing claims in the area were advanced by Vietnam, Philippines, and Malaysia. These claims were either of a legalistic or historical nature. Our position is that the legalistic claims are based on misinterpretation of EEZ eligibility criteria. Under the ITLOS Treaty, ITLOS jurisdiction is only over international waters. Any EEZ claims within the territorial waters of another state lack eligibility because of lack of ITLOS jurisdiction.
14. China advanced an ambitious historical claim based on discovery of bits of pottery from a shipwreck in the territory. Historians have dismissed this as fictitious. China later advanced an ambitious territorial claim based upon a 9-dash, or 11-dash, line. The ITLOS Tribunal examined this claim and ruled it lacked merit.
15. These various claims had the effect to undermine our representations of Colonia. From the 1980s our maritime boundaries were increasingly viewed as "disputed."
16. In 2016., the ITLOS Tribunal at the Hague dismissed the various EEZ claims, and China's claims. Today Colonia remains the only claim undefeated by any tribunal.

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17. In 1978, our representative Lord (Harold) Wilson presented the case for Colonia to Zhou En-Lai. Lord Wilson proposed to China a joint-cooperation to develop the territory. Zhou En-Lai declined this proposal, and he assured Lord Wilson that China had no interest in the area.
18. In 1980, Lord Wilson presented the Colonia position to Zhao Ziyang. He provided a sample of oil, with a map of the source (at Mischief Reef), and an invitation for China to inspect the location. Again he was told that China had no interest in the area. Henry Kissinger confirmed this was the Chinese position, at that time.
19. From 1986, the Chinese position changed. Chinese forces crossed our borders. From 1988, China constructed installations at Mischief Reef. We made protests to China, with no response.
20. Our legal advisor made search of Taiwan archives, and discovered a map of China's territorial claim lines from 1926. The map shows no Chinese claim lines in the Spratlys. This adds to a compelling body of evidence that there exists no genuine historical foundation for any Chinese claims in the area.
21. Proposed commercial ventures with British and American companies for development of our resources have been frustrated by (the threat of) Chinese hostilities.
22. Following the ITLOS Tribunal decision, China ignored the ruling. Our protests to China have cited that an unresolved maritime boundary dispute exists between China and Colonia, and that there has occurred illegal occupation of certain features within our territory. China has not responded.
23. We seek urgent discussion with the UK, and its allies, on the topic of our mutual security interests. The discussions in the Reagan era seemed promising at first, but perhaps were inconclusive in the end as the region was not viewed to be of immediate strategic importance at that time.
24. In the context of our mutual security interests, we propose discussion of possible contribution of an island within our territory, to become a facility for emergency and security operations.
25. Colonia is an independent country, and not a member of the UN. We propose discussion for our position to be represented at the UN by another member state.
26. China has been in breach of our maritime boundaries and in illegal occupation of several features within our territory.
27. In 1956, Cloma first proposed to the UN that Freedomland's location in the center of the South China Sea made it central for the security

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architecture of the region. Today the ITLOS Tribunal has dismissed the other claimants. Colonia remains the geographical center of the South China Sea, and therefore is the central fact to address the security of the region.

Please accept our compliments, and we look forward to your consideration of our request for discussions.

Cordially yours,



Thomas Brady
Secretary-General
State Council



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