

**THE REAL PROCLAMATION OF THE PEOPLE**  
**OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

HERE COMES WE, the indigenous U.S. Virgin Islanders residing locally and worldwide, representing some 300,000 people strong, and we offer this real proclamation of our collective sentiments when it comes to the 100<sup>th</sup> year celebration of the 1917 Transfer of our people and islands from Denmark to America. We do this because we too have a voice. That voice is contrary to that of the organizers and supporters of this “celebration and commemoration,” and so we must speak up for ourselves, since our representatives, both past and present, have failed to do so.

ON MARCH 22, 2017, USVI Governor Kenneth E. Mapp issued a proclamation for this entire territory to observe the 100<sup>th</sup> year celebration of our transfer. **Similarly, on March 27, 2017**, a Moravian church in and several citizens of Denmark issued a declaration. **Know this:** For the record, we respectfully issue this proclamation and decree:

**WHEREAS**, we believe a thinking portion of this territory cannot and will not accept nor abide by those instruments. While we thank our Creator for taking us through, and while as always we welcome everyone to our shores, today we do not celebrate such an occasion with you. Our mission is self-determination, as provided for in the U.N. Charter at Resolution #1514.<sup>i</sup>

**PEOPLE**, do we realize that the Moravian church is of GERMAN heritage, not Danish? Yes, the Moravian church originates from Moravia, a country in the Czech Republic. The Czech Republic is a nation state in Central Europe bordered by Germany to the west, Austria to the south, Slovakia to the east and Poland to the northeast. Denmark is 509 miles away from it. **So how can people of a German church apologize for the atrocities conducted by a Danish government?**<sup>ii</sup> Furthermore, do we know if the *several citizens of Denmark* are originally Danes? These backgrounds do matter. They speak to the authenticity of that apology.

**WOULD** the Moravian church *in Denmark* (along with several citizens *of Denmark*) have issued its declaration if our government hadn't first issued its proclamation? Or if Mr. Shelly Moorhead hadn't recently travelled to Denmark, thus making this an apology we paid for? What about the other times when the same gentleman requested an apology? Did those not count? And what about reparations? Are they still off the table?

**AS FOR OUR GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATION**, we do not subscribe to that either. For us, today there will only be somber prayers, introspection, and further education of what happened and is happening to our ancestors and people during those 100 years. No celebration; no commemoration. Period.

**EITHER WAY**, for the reasons above we respectfully stand contrary to both documents. Further research can be found at **“A People's Historical Journey to Self Determination & Decolonization.”**<sup>iii</sup>

**BASED UPON VARIOUS REPORTS**, we know the beauty of Denmark can be traced back to the possibly trillions of dollars made off the backs of our people. Beauty which remains up to this day; beauty whereas Denmark ranks #2 and America #14 as *the best places to invest and the happiest places to live*: lower-cost healthcare and education; awesome infrastructures; cleaner environments; lower utilities— much the opposite locally! That being said, we require and need a true apology and immediate reparations by all vehicles, be they through the Interior Department and/or our elected Delegate to Congress.

**FURTHER**, we recognize that of the two delegated contingencies of sovereign nationals being celebrated for the 100 years of our existence as the Virgin Islands of the United States are largely those of Danish ancestry; rather than the receiving Americans. That too proves to us that this celebration is an embarrassment to our ancestors who were sold as part of the transfer. Fast forward, today (albeit running faucets and flushing toilets), we recognize no more freedom than experienced by our people back then. We still fight your wars but we are still not full U.S. citizens; we still have no Constitution (although 5 attempts have gone by); we get no justice in our courts; we lose to labor and property rights on a daily basis; our schools are full of mold and our roads are full of holes. When we speak up, we are ostracized, much like our ancestors were flogged or murdered. Others were sent away to neighboring keys; used only as bucks to mate and create new slaves.

**SO**, other than money from our taxes and government, we are all fools who believe this Transfer Celebration has anything to do with our progress as a people, just as in 1917 it had nothing to do with our future. We were simply part of an economic need. Ask David Hamilton Jackson; he found that out the hard way.

**UNLESS AND UNTIL** we are free from all colonizers, via the vehicle we have been given by the U.N. Charter, Resolution #1514, which allows us to free ourselves through self-determination, we recognize we are still slaves; “*neo-colonistically*,” but slaves nonetheless. This is our collective sentiments.

Respectfully Signed,

**WE, THE INDIGENOUS U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDERS RESIDING LOCALLY AND WORLDWIDE.**

<sup>i</sup> <http://www.un.org/en/decolonization/declaration.shtml>

<sup>ii</sup> <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moravia>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech\\_Republic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_Republic)

<http://www.gomapper.com/travel/list-of-countries-near/czech-republic.html>

<sup>iii</sup> <http://www.APHJ2SD.com>