

Editorial

By Yolande Grant

Decolonization of the Entire Caribbean Region

The British couple acting as representatives for the palace, in March of 2022, while on a tour to Caribbean and Latin American countries, boldly highlighted the evolution of “relationships.” Needless to say, there has been a shift over the last five centuries from one of direct dehumanization of Afrikans and other groups, to one of commonwealth “partnerships,” for upwards of the last six decades, and consequently the most recent upgrade by the royal relative to everyone now on an equal “friends” footing.

This declaration comes with concrete attachments just in case the Prince was not aware and at the time desperately seeking to escape an unexpectedly sticky situation: but instead, successfully issued in a fascinating and most welcome change in dialogue, after Jamaica voiced their displeasure stemming from the kidnapping and enslavement of 600,000 Afrikans over prolonged periods. While activists were well prepared for the occasion.

The open-ended invitation of “friendship” came about after a backlash and resistance from some countries showing disgust at the presence to celebrate the monarchy’s 70th jubilee, seen as an intrusion without apology or reparatory justice, and as new friendships go, should naturally usher in the next logical step and debut the long sought-after decolonization of the entire region: started so long ago by likeminded Pan Afrikanists, activists, singers, and writers in the last hundred years. Thus far, the only country showing an appetite to not only shed monarchical rule but advance to a republic and simultaneously decolonize their people through engagement and ideas from the populace on the best way to proceed, since the enlightening visit, is Belize.

No other country has shown the smallest desire, interest, or intestinal fortitude, for whatever reason, to follow-up beyond the over two centuries of political republicanism rigorously fought for from the French and won by Haiti’s General and leader Francois-Dominique Toussaint Louverture and his lieutenant Jean Jacques Dessalines, beginning in 1791 and ending with independence for the country in 1804. While

seeking liberation from the tyrants of the day, as the world's first independent state, that resulted in eventual freedom from shackles and chains for captured Afrikans across the isles. There have been multiple republics throughout the Americas implemented afterward, such as Simon Bolivar's independence movement to free South American countries from the yoke of Spanish rule starting in 1819, to various other islands gaining political independence later, with a few countries along the chain opting for republic status from the 1970s and coming forward. History shows that nothing much changed for Caribbean people since that daringly, brave feat by Haiti that resulted in more oppression, subjugation and suppression from colonizers who back then saw our ancestors as less than human, with no rights, who dared have the audacity to want freedom from enslavement in all its sickening, dehumanizing forms: and a steep price was paid for their determination, that still echoes today, since there appeared immediately after that, the more subtle and barely visible commonwealth "partnership" phase.

In direct contrast to prior machinations, the next in line to the throne gushed glowingly about the equivalent to rapports and solidarity. Powerful words if applied to start the new journey of letting go of and getting over all intent to reorganize any perceived remaining tentacles and thoughts of ownership of people to redesign their lives and that of their incoming future generations. Which is morally wrong, out of line and in these new beginnings, unwelcome. This extended encouragement should not revolute to a wasted opportunity to finally strip centuries of ugliness that doggedly follows everyone like the Royal curse it has become. Our children of Afrikan ancestry trapped on pauperized islands are not tools useful only for photo ops while standing behind chain linked fences, similar to petting zoos waiting to be touched and petted. This disrespect and demeaning practice should immediately end and never seen anywhere descents reside again in the spirit of cooperation as new friends.

A revelation of a tour for the islands inhabitants to mull and analyze, that in most people's opinion was replete with demoralizing optics. While giving off a sense of an attempt to reboot by assessing the waters first. There is every right to push back against presumptuousness, given that the now famously divulged delicate balance, a precursor to the over 60-year-old recalibrating: but never transforming to full economic and social freedom for the Caribbean's people, is seen in all its revealing facets. By March 29, 2022, very shortly after the embarrassing debacle,

a “royal expert” opined in the UK's Daily Express that the palace representatives were “ill-advised” by close aides. Since the help has to absorb the blame for their shortsightedness, why not hire advisors who are less pregnant with and high on colonialism. Which was interpreted by onlookers, as having severe “1950s styled undertones” and expressed complete horror and dismay at the affront.