

Government of the
Principality of Hutt River

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**** ***MEDIA RELEASE*** ****

CHOGM STATEMENT

LEADERS from 54 nations and more than 3000 delegates and visitors will descend on Perth, Western Australia for the October 2011 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM).

CHOGM is attended by Heads of Government of the Commonwealth of Nations, which was until 1948 the British Commonwealth of Nations. This year, 2011, the meeting is held in Perth Western Australia, nearby to this Principality, on October 28th – 30th and we welcome the event to Perth.

Under the British Citizenship Act 1948 (effective 01 Jan 1949), “British Citizenship” was taken from all citizens in all the British Colonies and replaced with Citizenship of the Commonwealth of Nations, with instructions in the Act that the Colonies were to give all its citizens, citizenship of their own Nations.

Australia’s Citizenship Act specifies that all those born in Australia from 26th January 1949 had citizenship by birth right. All others born prior to that date may apply to the Minister for Citizenship. There were some seven million people in Australia, including those who went to World War II and returned alive to Australia, that were left with Citizenship of the Commonwealth of Nations, but an alien to Australia and all other countries. The people affected by this Act have never had these facts explained to them, have not been made aware of the facts nor have they been guided toward the only method to right this wrong, which is to apply to the Australian Federal Government Minister for Citizenship to have their Australian Citizenship bestowed upon them. This needs also to be done posthumously for all those who have since left us and it should be attended to as a matter of urgency.

Wherein HRH Prince Leonard and HRH Princess Shirley of the Principality of Hutt River have since 1st January 1949 been citizens of the “Commonwealth of Nations” and without any “International State” having legal status to represent them within the “Commonwealth of Nations”, it has been considered to be most appropriate and worthy for both them and their people to be involved with the Commonwealth of Nations of which they are, by the Law of Great Britain, citizens thereof. Lack of involvement in such would be contrary to their actual interest.

HRH Prince Leonard and HRH Princess Shirley, hold citizenship of the Commonwealth of Nations and are of a Sovereign State, which has maintained Constitutional contact with other Member States of the Commonwealth of Nations, yet are denied their place in this major event, the largest Heads of State meeting to ever occur up to date in Australia.

This is assuredly a great day for all to celebrate and to utilize this event for whatever State and Humanity achievements that may be desired. This of course will depend on those who attend this meeting and those who then will follow this in latter times. This meeting is also a great opportunity for the action of the removal of British Citizenship from Commonwealth Citizens in 1948/49 to be addressed so that all those born (in whatever British Commonwealth country) prior to the changes made to the British Citizenship Act can be made aware of this great injustice of being left aliens in their own lands and moves got underway to correct the situation.

In summary

It is considered that the taking away of the British Citizenship and not automatically giving an Australian Citizenship to those who were born in Australia prior to 1st January 1949, especially to those who served in the armed forces of Australia in World War II, is possibly the greatest insult one could give to those who fought for their country and were subsequently made by political legislation “an Alien” to what was previously their country.

There were approximately seven million people in Australia who were so affected.

The Commonwealth of Nations, whose policy is related to both the State and people, show no interest in those who actually held “Citizenship of the Commonwealth of Nations”, but as Aliens have no country representing them, as they are in reality Stateless.

Therefore it would appear that the Commonwealth of Nations, are in reality an organization whose interest is basically of State issues, and not concerned with issues of Statelessness by their own citizens.

In 2007 & 2009 this Principality released the \$5 commemorative “LWF” (Lest We Forget”) coin as a solid reminder and call to correct this great injustice.

This is a recognised injustice, recognised by many historians and the Australian Government, that is easily seen when looking at the Australian Citizenship Act and in 2007, after HRH Prince Leonard started his campaign to have this situation corrected, a change was made to the Australian Citizenship Act acknowledging the situation and allowing those affected the right to apply for and receive citizenship but the change did not automatically bestow such citizenship on them, which is what should have been done. Those affected have by now either passed on or few are left, so many have died stateless and all are unaware of this having occurred and of their right to apply for and receive citizenship.

Hence the ongoing campaign by HRH Prince Leonard who is one of those affected and who fought for Australia and the British Crown at war seeing active service with the RAAF during WWII yet had his citizenship removed and was also left stateless, an alien in his own country until his point of secession over another matter in 1970, at which point he became a citizen, a citizen of the PHR.

Now to recognise and welcome CHOGM to Perth, Western Australia for their meeting 28-30th October 2011 we will be releasing on October 01st 2011 a Commemorative postal Mini-sheet of 4 stamps featuring the location map of PHR as an additional reminder and call for this opportunity for the CHOGM to be used to correct this wrong that was done to so many.

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HRH Prince Leonard
Sovereign
Principality of Hutt River
