

PRINCIPALITY OF SEALAND



We are perhaps more a micro-state than a micro-nation; for nearly 40 years, we have had a resident population, our own territorial waters and island fortress, and the responsibility of feeding and keeping warm and comfortable our residents. We think about nations as »groups of persons with a common goal or ideal«; we think about States as »geographically separate parts of the earth with a population, government, and the ability to be self-sustaining«. In the beginning there must be nations; from them may come States. We are proud to be amongst nations at this exhibition, and look forward to learning from them about their common interests and the thoughts and ideals that join each of their institutions together as one.

OUR HISTORY

A country must begin with lands and territories exclusive to the people who inhabit them. And so it was with our Principality; founded in international waters, centred upon a fortress that no one wanted nor claimed and which had stood abandoned for over 20 years, Major Roy Bates and his family took possession. It was not easy in those first days; lanterns provided the light in the cold winter nights, and paraffin stoves provided what little warmth there was to be had. A year later, in 1967, the fortress had been made habitable and our Principality was proclaimed as a new country on the high seas. Our nearest neighbour, the United Kingdom, noted our country with some disdain and much indifference; it was almost impossible in those

days to communicate with the rest of the world, supplies were provided with difficulty, and the thought of a regular postal service was far from our grasp. Still, we carried on; there were ways round the difficulties, and these were found; in spite of the lack of co-operation, the tiny population of the Bates family and a few others became modern-day pioneers in the North Sea. As time moved on, our Principality became more firmly entrenched; an attempt by the UK to occupy our country fell to the UK Courts to be quashed, and finally our permanent presence was accepted. Following this quiet but important step, we were able to carry our own letters to a port of entry to the international postal system, and we began the work of making a country have an identity of its own. Our flag, our passports, our citizens, our own way of life became the accepted norm in the countries about us.

There were many in those days who wanted their country 'ready-made'; those who would wish to trade off the backs of our early pioneers who struggled in the cold dark and windy winters to make our country a comfortable and peaceful place to live. Once we were successfully invaded; and fought back to regain our lands and territorial seas. Other attempts were made. Many Investors came in disguise, hoping somehow to gain control of our Principality for their own ends. All were unsuccessful.

It can be said as right that any country which starts from the beginning must have difficult times; the history books record such reality over and over again. Our country is no exception. In many ways, the building and consolidation of virgin territories into a place to live, with reasonable comfort and a peaceful way of life, are bought with sweat and tears. And so it was with the Principality of Sealand. Fifteen years on, the country was known, was prosperous, and offered its population a place in the world where dignity and respect for all was the norm.

THE PRECEDENT

It cannot be comfortable for a country and its political system to see a new country develop and grow on its doorstep. What is more, our fortress was made by man; any number of similar efforts, given the time and funding, could be undertaken. The thought of hundreds of serfdoms or other small states populating the high seas of the globe was a thought not taken lightly by the established countries in the world. True, no one had yet found the extensive investment required to build and to occupy an artificial construction on the high seas, but this could only be a matter of time.

Faced with this reality, all countries which bordered an ocean or similar body of water with international standing convened, by way of the United Nations, in 1982. There, discussions were held; and a common wish to ban forever any further declarations of independence emerged. In the »UN Convention Of The Sea«, countries in the world united: any man-made structure in international waters could never again have independent status, but rather fell under the jurisdiction of the nearest country. A new sector of international law was born, but born and finally implemented nearly two decades after the Principality came to be. The door was then closed on future independent countries being built and declared; the door closed two decades too late to alter the reality of our country. Since that time, our neighbouring countries, the neighbours upon whom we depend to a

much greater extent than do they depend upon us, became resigned to our presence. Our way of life eased; journeys were commonplace, without bureaucratic problems and unnecessary obstruction; and we were able to begin to concentrate upon our life-style comforts rather than upon survival.

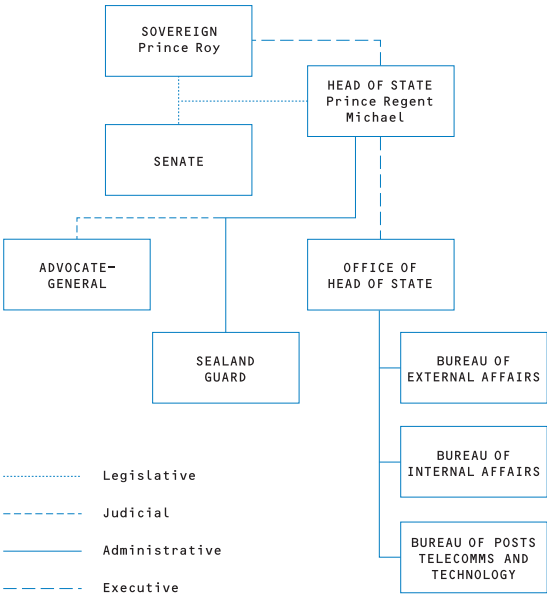
But we had made our mark in history; due to our founding, our declaration of independence and our existence, the rest of the world took note and changed forever the rules of the high seas that had ordered the discovery and colonisation by the Europeans of the whole of the globe since the 14th century and before. We had set a precedent; we, unwittingly, had changed the international political and social order forever.

TODAY

We have watched the world change. In our quiet place in the sea, we have watched other countries politically expire, emerge, and join with neighbouring countries. We have watched the cold war begin, rise to a crescendo, and end; we have watched nationalistic people-power cancel strong and not-so-strong countries, some of long standing. It has been an interesting time; perhaps a time never imagined and never before witnessed. Our part of the world, originally between fiercely independent countries with fortified borders, has changed to that of an independent country in a sea bordered by these same countries now working toward a common destiny. We have adapted to this change; where we once faced customs, immigration, and other nationalistic controls from our neighbours, we now can feel integrated with their activities as an independent part of a more seamless community of states.

During the last 15 years, we have been able to consolidate our country, concentrating on internal matters; we now have a developing industrial base, a growing population, and a working administration able to serve our resident persons and manage effectively our interface with the international community of States. We look forward to many more years to come.

PRINCIPALITY OF SEALAND > STRUCTURE OF GOVERNMENT



Founded: September 2, 1967

Government typ:
Constitutional Monarchy

Sovereign: Prince Roy of Sealand

Head of State:
Prince Regent Michael of Sealand

Location:
Central North Sea, approx. 7 nm East of the United Kingdom shoreline and the major port of Felixstowe

Territory [area]:
Land: 0.004 square km
Water: 99.996 square km

Coordinates: 51° 54' N; 01° 29' E

Comparative [land]:
Slightly smaller than the size of The Mall in Washington, DC

Coastline: 400 m

Maritime claims:
12 nm from central land area except to median line with UK border

Terrain:
Highly secure concrete and steel island with no surface access

Population: 27 [2002 actual]

Age structure:
0-14 years: 9%, 15-64 years: 82%, 65 years and over: 9%

Population growth: 0% [2002]

Net migration ratio:
-28% [2000-2002]

Sex ratio: 4.4 males/female

HIV/AIDS: Nil

Nationality: Sealander(s)

Ethnic groups:
European, North American

Religions:
Church of England 26%; other 74%

Language: English

Literacy: Over 95%

Legal system:
Common Law [based on English Law]

GDP: US\$600,000

GDP growth rate:
+25% [2000 – 2001]

GDP per capita: US\$22,200

Population below poverty line: 0%

Labour force: 22

Unemployment: 0%

Budget:
Revenues: US\$372,000
Expenditures: US\$194,000

Debt-external: US\$0

Economic aid: US\$0

Currency:
Sealand \$ [pegged in value to US\$]

International Disputes:
UK claims Sealand territorial waters and jurisdiction since 1987 [date of extension of UK territorial limits]

Principality of Sealand

I, Roy, being for the time being Sovereign over all the lands and other territories hereinafter known as the Principality of Sealand, hereby attest

That from the Day of Declaration of Independence on 2 September 1967, The Principality has been wholly independent of any other State or other external force and as a token of this independence all matters both national and international have been determined solely by the Sovereign empowered from time to time;

That the Principality was established for the betterment of mankind and to further that endeavour was set as a place where all men, regardless of personal background or persuasion, might undertake such activities as they see fit as appropriate to their beliefs and custom taking into account those actions upon their fellow men;

That from the Day of Independence a framework Constitution of fairness and equity has prevailed often against many odds but always with the attempt to respect the rights of individuals and to further the Principles of the Declaration of Independence above;

And now do declare:

That current factors now dictate that it is due time to place in force this the formal Constitution of Sealand better to secure Order within the Principality and thereby harmony and security for all.

Constitution of the Principality of Sealand

Article 1. Principles and structure of government

The nature of the Government of the Principality shall be, in all areas of its exercise of its powers, that of a Constitutional Monarchy.

The Sovereign shall be the Authority for all matters civil and criminal national and international which affect or are likely to affect in the judgement of the Sovereign the Order or security of the Principality.

The Sovereign shall empower as in the judgement of the Sovereign is appropriate such persons or groups of persons as seen fit with devolved authority to effect such matters as may arise to pursue the welfare of the Principality; amongst these may be Bureaux concerned with external matters, internal matters, matters of concern to the Head of State, and matters concerned with the Principality Treasury and other institutions constituted to serve particular needs of the Principality.

The details of such organs constituted from time to time and their powers and jurisdictions shall be at the sole discretion of the Sovereign.

The Sovereign shall in addition set out procedures appropriate to the resolution of dispute and the keeping of the Common Order to the benefit of all.

Article 2. Senate and its duties

The Sovereign shall determine whether and if so to what extent to constitute to convene and to preside over the activities of a formal Senate which shall sit in an advisory capacity to consider various matters of State.

It shall upon instruction of the Sovereign or by collective consensus of need perceived by Senate prepare those Laws seen appropriate for the maintenance of Order and to sustain the Common Good.

Such Laws as may be prepared by Senate shall be presented to the Sovereign for bringing into effect or for such other disposition as the Sovereign in sole discretion shall see fit.

Such Laws as are enacted by the Sovereign shall form the only basis upon which matters of any kind are undertaken in the Principality and shall be published for the information of all Citizens who will be held responsible for their implementation as appropriate.

Members of Senate shall be appointed by the Sovereign who shall at all times use best judgement to ensure a balance of representation of the interests of the Principality.

Article 3. Judicial powers

Subject to the conditions in Clause 5 of Article 1 above, a tribunal shall be constituted to consider matters of dispute within the Principality or between the Principality or its Citizens and others and to advise on the resolution of such disputes. The tribunal shall be no less than 3 in number and be formed of those persons seen to be expert in the Process of Law and in the matter brought forward for consideration and independent of the interests of the parties concerned.

Any tribunal shall at all times take into account the content of the Declaration of Human Rights and Judgements of those Courts concerned with the administration of the content of the Declaration of Human Rights as a first priority in its deliberations.

The opinion of the tribunal shall be conveyed to the Sovereign who shall issue a Decision as appropriate said Decision to be subject to enforcement as seen appropriate.

The Sovereign shall have sole discretion as to devolvement of any or all powers [or cancellation of such devolution] in respect of such legal matters as are seen fit.

Article 4. Matters of State

All relations with other States shall be at the sole discretion of the Sovereign who may seek advice from Senate as appropriate.

The Sovereign shall be the sole authority for all representations to other States or to entities constituted or active outside the Principality and all matters concerning or likely to concern such representations shall be referred to Senate or directly to the

Sovereign as appropriate.

No Citizen resident or other person whether personal or corporate shall make nor imply to be able to make any representation to any external person concerning any matter of State.

Article 5. The maintenance of Order

The Sovereign shall constitute such forces as are considered appropriate to sustain Order and to preserve the integrity of the Principality.

Such forces shall be termed Sealand Guard and shall have the powers to enforce such Law as may from time to time be in force. The Guard shall report to the Sovereign who shall have absolute discretion as to the nature and extent of how and by which methods Law and Order are maintained.

No member of Sealand Guard shall be a member of Senate as set out in Article 2 above.

No persons other than those members of Sealand Guard whether Citizens of Sealand or of any other description or persuasion shall normally be permitted to carry arms of any kind within the territories of the Principality for any purpose.

The Sovereign shall detain any person according to the Sovereign's pleasure should it be considered essential to the maintenance of Order and the Common Good. Such detention shall be consistent with the content of the Declaration of Human Rights and the interests of the Principality.

Article 6. Succession of Sovereign powers

The Sovereign for the time being shall vest ultimately all powers in a Successor who shall be determined according to Custom and Practice associated with Paternal succession of the Sovereign.

Divestiture of Sovereign powers shall be at the discretion of the Sovereign for the time being and may be exercised by abdication for reasons of convenience or death.

Article 7. Variation or addition to the Constitution

The Constitution of Sealand shall be subject to such variation addition or modification as the Sovereign considers appropriate.

Senate may present to the Sovereign proposals for variation given due and careful consideration of the reasons therefor and the Sovereign shall take the most careful note of the presentation in determining an appropriate Decision as a result of those considerations.

Delivered to the Citizens of the Principality 2nd of September 1966

ROY OF SEALAND