

DECLASSIFIED = DÉCLASSÉ

INTERNAL AFFAIRS = AFFAIRES INTERNES

EXEMPT

S. 15(i)  
13(i)III. CANADA AND THE TURKS AND CAICOSA) Current Relations

Relations between Canada and the Turks and Caicos Islands are minimal but good. Canadian investors are involved in banking (Bank of Nova Scotia), housing, hotel and the property business. There are 25 Canadians resident in the islands and approximately 400 Canadian tourists visited during the last twelve months (compared with more than 350,000 Canadians who visit the Commonwealth Caribbean as a whole each year). Immigration from the Turks and Caicos in 1984 totalled 1 (total immigration from the Caribbean in 1984 was 5604 of whom 2478 came from Jamaica and 1391 from Haiti) and trade is negligible. The Turks and Caicos are not eligible for Canadian bilateral development assistance but, as a demonstration of concern for the welfare of the people of the islands, MAF funding is provided (current level \$100,000 per annum).

B) The Concept of Association

The general question of admission to Canada of one or more of the islands of the British West Indies has long been discussed and, at times, actively proposed. Sir Joseph Pope made a study of the question in 1917, and recommended "annexation" of the entire West Indies. In 1918, Sir Robert Borden noted in his diary that, in a conversation with Mr. Lloyd George, the latter had "suggested that we should take over the West Indies, and I acquiesced".

There is no record to indicate that subsequently any Canadian Government seriously contemplated such a union, but individuals in Canada and the West Indies continued to argue in favour of it. In 1962, Mr. Diefenbaker received a letter from Mr. E.O. Leblanc, then Chief Minister of Dominica, in which he was asked for his views concerning the possibility of Dominica becoming a province of Canada. Mr. Diefenbaker rejected the concept of Canada embracing the West Indian island and, in 1966, Mr. Leblanc was quoted as having said, "I wrote to Mr. Diefenbaker when he was Prime Minister asking if Canada would accept us a province. Nothing ever came of it." Mr. Leblanc did not formally seek association with Canada, but sought rather to ascertain what Canada's attitude was likely to be in the event of such a request.