

- UNCLASSIFIED - ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS = AFFAIRES EXTERIEURES

(4) Association with the Bahamas

15(1)

EXEMPT S. 15(1)

The geographical situation and the history of the islands indicate that they should properly have formed part of the Bahamas. This was prevented by a competing claim by Bermuda, based largely on the lucrative salt tax of 200 years ago. As a result of political separation, the Turks and Caicos have evolved somewhat differently from the Bahamas, though many links remain, including the pressure on the Bahamas of a large number (14,000) of Turks and Caicos immigrants and their children.

15(1)

EXEMPT S. 15(1)

V. Conclusions

Considering Canada's limited interest in the Turks and Caicos Islands and the implications for Canada described in this paper of the various political options available for the Turks and Caicos, the following conclusions may be drawn.

- The reasons given in 1980 and outlined in this paper for Canada declining to pursue an association with the islands, remain valid.

EXEMPT S. 21(1)(a)

- The government of the Turks and Caicos Islands is not interested in pursuing independence now, and a recent United Nations resolution (29 January 1986) emphasizes the need for economic and social development rather than access to independence.

EXEMPT S. 21(1)(a)