

In May, 1980, private Canadian investors (in particular Mr. Rod Blaker, M.P. for Lachine) indicated that the Government of Bermuda was interested in a development plan in the Turks and Caicos Islands which might involve Britain and Canada. In July, following an interview with Bermuda's Premier Gibbons, media representatives claimed that plans were being made by Bermuda, Canada and Britain for tourism development in the Turks and Caicos. Subsequently, during a meeting between Canada's Commissioner to Bermuda and Premier Gibbons, it was determined that Bermuda had no proposals to make concerning the development of the Turks and Caicos Islands. In order to end media speculation, Canada's Commissioner to Bermuda informed the press that the Canadian Government had no proposals to present to the Bermudian Government on the development of the Islands.

Since 1980, the issue has followed a rather predictable pattern: during the winter months, Canadians write their MP's or the Department suggesting an association as a remedy to the deficit of the tourism account as well as to the winter blues. The writing campaign picks up considerably whenever the issue receives press coverage. During the last year, the volume of mail increased possibly as a result of the falling dollar and increased cost of American resorts and the possibility or hope of a policy change by the Conservative government.

Early in 1986, Senator Heath Macquarrie raised the issue once again by writing to the Secretary of State for External Affairs and accompanying his letter with a background paper entitled "Islands in the Sun" a Potential Canadian Haven. This request along with a number of other parliamentary enquiries have led to the present review of the Canadian government's policy.

IV. CANADIAN POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

A) Introduction

T

EXCLUSION S. 69

Exclusion
S. 69