

DECLASSIFIED - EXTERNAL AFFAIRS CONFIDENTIAL

CANADA AND THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS

SUMMARY

The Turks and Caicos Islands are an economically under-developed British dependency with minimal but good relations with Canada. The idea of closer association between Canada and the Turks and Caicos Islands has been the subject of public interest and parliamentary debate for some years. Canada's position, enunciated in 1974, has been that it did not favour discriminating in favour of one state in the region. The population and resources of the Turks and Caicos Islands were found to be not great enough to support a tourist industry of sufficient dimensions to make a significant difference to Canada's balance of payments on the tourist account. Association, it was concluded, would result in Canadians dominating the Islands economy, raising the possibility of social tensions and accusations of neocolonialism.

The present review, which is an update of the latest review carried out in 1980, confirms the essential validity of the position adopted by the Canadian Government in 1974 and concludes that closer association with the Turks and Caicos Islands would be of no greater mutual benefit than the friendly relations which now exist.

EXEMPT S. 13 (1)
15 (1)
21 (1) (a)

LIBRARY OF PARLIAMENT
CANADA
1987 07 03
BIBLIOTHÈQUE DU PARLEMENT