

Senator Argue: It reads as follows:

"BE IT RESOLVED AND MADE KNOWN THAT:

The State Council of the Turks and Caicos Islands desires to thank formally the Canadian People and their Government for the considerable help and advice received by these Islands from them in recent years.

This State Council, recognising the urgent need for both long and short term solutions to our present constitutional, financial and economic problems, further resolves that it would welcome additional professional and technical advice from both governmental and non-governmental organisations so that we may benefit from your long and loyal membership of the British Commonwealth.

In particular, this State Council would welcome far greater official contact between our two governments and herewith cordially invite a Canadian Parliamentary Delegation to visit these Islands and advise us during these days of decision."

And to the fact that, from time to time, both before and after the passage of this Resolution, there have been discussions between a number of Senators, Members of the House of Commons and representatives of the State Council of the Turks and Caicos Islands, and that members of that Council have expressed the following:

"(a) The need for a new Constitution caused by the independence of the Bahamas and the desire for greater internal self-government.

(b) The need to establish a new relationship with Britain and the Commonwealth now that Britain has entered the European Community.

(c) The need to work out a practical relationship with the United States Government over such matters as immigration, bases agreement, use of Grand Turk airstrip and currency restrictions.

(d) The need for a long-term (30-year) plan for the economic development of these Islands so that the short "Three Year Plans" can fit into a meaningful pattern and so that they can establish a sensible order of priorities.

(e) The need to find many more job opportunities for the rapidly increasing work force which is leaving school or returning from the Bahamas—and who are finding it very difficult to migrate or to find suitable jobs at home.

(f) The need for the Islands to develop new and reliable markets and industries to supplement the present dangerous dependence on fishing and ephemeral tourism.

(g) The need to find additional sources of finance, capital funding and expertise so that the basic infrastructural requirements can be met more quickly and more efficiently than at present."

And that members of the Council have stated that by becoming closely associated with Canada the Islands would obtain the following advantages:

"(1) much greater internal self government at a "Provincial" or "Territorial" level, but within the framework of Canadian federal laws and regulations. They would become an integral part of a major world political unit.

The Canadian Governor General and the Federal Courts of Appeal would be shared with the Islands.

(2) The Islands would utilise the Canadian dollar.

(3) As Canadian citizens, the Islands would acquire a completely different relationship with other members of the Commonwealth and the world. They would have the benefit of the Canadian diplomatic services which are well established in the neighbouring countries and they would cease to be unwanted British Colonials and a burden on the British taxpayer. At present, the British passports give them no right to migrate or to work in Britain.

(4) The Islands would benefit from the very close relationship that Canada has with the United States.

(5) The economic future of these Islands would be rapidly integrated into that of Canada. Canada has no warm southern states and suffers some of the worst winters in the world. These Islands would naturally attract the Canadian winter vacationist and the retirement couples who wish to invest their savings, earned elsewhere, in seasonal homes. The geographical position of these Islands will probably be developed by those Canadian manufacturers who need a Caribbean showcase and entrepot facilities. Canadian airlines could become "domestic" airlines with the ability to quote preferential tariffs.

(6) The educational system would become Canadian and it should then be far easier to obtain places in Canadian universities and trade and professional institutions. Employment opportunities and the spectrum of jobs would increase far beyond those of these small Islands with their small population.

(7) As a Canadian tropical Province or Territory, the Islands would be able to tap a "domestic" tourist market.

(8) The Canadian Government has a long tradition of helping underdeveloped countries and communities. They have well established governmental agencies, development funds and professional consultancy firms who have worked throughout the world."

And that in considering this association the following steps should be taken:

"(1) Visits by parliamentary and governmental delegations.

(2) Acceptance of Canadian dollar as basis for currency.

(3) Appointment of Governor General of Canada as Governor of Turks and Caicos Islands.