



ST. CHRISTOPHER - NEVIS - ANGUILLA

Information Office

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2nd June,

19 67.

PRESS RELEASE

The following is the text of the Statement presented by the Delegation from Anguilla to His Excellency the Governor at Government House on Wednesday, 31st May, and to which the Cabinet Statement referred:-

(For text see attached)

Premier's Office,
Government Headquarters,
Basseterre,
St. Kitts.

2nd June, 1967.

His Excellency the Governor,
State of St. Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla.

Your Excellency,

We the members of this delegation, with the knowledge of the various shades of opinion and sentiment of the people of Anguilla, request the privilege of addressing you on the present situation in the island.

What Do Anguillans Want? Self-determination. This is the desire of no less than 99% of the people. Anguillans do not want to be part of a State of St. Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla. The time when they might have accepted this is past. What they now want is SEPARATION FROM ST. KITTS. They want a process set in motion NOW which will give them this SEPARATION and SELF-DETERMINATION within twelve months. By the end of this time they want to be a State in Association with Britain. They recognize this as very costly in more respects than one. They recognize it as entailing great responsibility. But they are prepared to accept the challenge. Anguillans are not prepared to accept NO for an answer. They see this as their only hope. They see it as the only way to PEACE and PROGRESS, and they want to have it at all cost.

In The Interim, What Do They Want? (1) Direct Administration from Britain under an Administrator appointed by Her Majesty's Government. This they want done with all haste. (2) Immediately following the appointment of such an Administrator, a general election in the island to constitute a Council. This in fact means that they want a large measure of self-rule NOW.

Anguillans are asking:- Do we have a right to self-determination? They believe they have. They believe that right should be respected, and that it should be accorded to them. They believe that denial of that right has led, and will continue to lead to hardship, frustration, and suffering. They believe that the only wise course is for this government to recognize this and to take action NOW - begin negotiation with the British Government NOW in order that they may be spared the hardship and suffering which, otherwise, must follow.

This delegation pleads that the Anguillans be given a hearing. We ask that the Anguillan case be listened to, and viewed sympathetically. This delegation is of the opinion that what Anguillans are asking for may not be as impossible as it sounds. We therefore request Your Excellency to do all in your power to have negotiations begun without delay to obtain for the people of Anguilla either what they are asking, or some alternative acceptable to them.

The view of Anguillans is "Separation From St. Kitts". Either grant it to us or we will take it even if we must fight for it.

This delegation has the assurance that there is a desire for peace and order to be restored, and for all public services to continue without interruption. There is strong feeling, that any attempt to settle the crisis by force will only aggravate the situation.

Your Excellency, we beg of you to do all you can so that there may be a peaceful end to this crisis. We further beg you to give us the assurance that steps are going to be taken without delay to examine the Anguilla case taking cognizance of all that has been said above. This assurance will go a long way to ease the present tension.

We are,

Yours obediently,

(sd) C. Leonard Carby

(sd) C. W. Fleming

(sd) Martin C. Roberts