

(iv)
9th April, 1969.

The unfortunate position in which you have placed yourself in and over Anguilla has created the following difficulties for me:-

- (i) your inexplicable and off repeated statement that it is no part of H.M.G.'s purpose to place Anguillans under an administration they do not want, which Lord Caradon's so-called agreement includes as an "undertaking" of the British Government gives the appearance Anguilla is being administered as separate and detached from the rest of the State and to the complete exclusion of the lawful Government which, so far as your utterances go, hardly exists. Surely this attitude neither squares with the agreement with Whitlock nor indeed with the directive you issued to Commissioner Lee. It leaves you open to the charge of re-imposing colonial rule;
- (ii) Lord Caradon's and your recognition of the illegal form of elections held in Anguilla last year, and condemned as such by Lord Chalfont, unfortunately puts the stamp of approval upon the rebellion, gives Webster an importance he never had, as I warned you telegraphically on 26th March, and leaves rebels in an enhanced position. It is also an open invitation to Nevis to make a similar effort as Anguilla;
- (iii) the change of nomenclature from Committee to Advisory Council is unfortunate in that it departs from the directive and offends the Local Government Act;
- (iv) Webster's continued defiant refusal to surrender arms in illegal possession demonstrates his adherence to rebellion and violence and makes nonsense of the recognition you so unjustifiably, and illadvisedly, gave him. It also reinforces necessity to maintain troops on Anguilla long enough to enable Lee to establish himself firmly and take full control of the administration of Anguilla. Anything short of this would be suicidal all round;
- (v) the continued presence on Anguilla of the Americans Haskins, Goodge, Jeremiah Gumbs and Mrs. Goodknow, as well as the priest Carleton is highly undesirable and could only serve to bolster Webster in his disturbing nonsense. These people are props that should immediately be knocked from under Webster as a quick means of cutting him down to size and freeing the island of the terrible fear which his guns engendered. Unless this is done Lee's administration will never be settled nor at peace;

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(In WASHINGTON)

(vi) the Caradon "agreement" with Webster has served to heighten anxiety in a mischievous quarter in Nevis where deficiencies in road, fire-fighting appliances, water availability and airport facilities particularly, and to a lesser but still pressing extent, agricultural development and electricity extensions provide a composite fertile ground for dissatisfaction and agitation. When therefore special developmental aid is announced for rebellious Anguilla to the tune of £50,000 for 1969/70 and nothing is said about peaceful Nevis, then the road is made clear for the perpetration of mischief.

2. In summary then, the Caradon-Webster so-called agreement has thrown up more difficulties than it misguidedly purported to solve, not the least of those difficulties being a further ignoring of the State Government, recognition and reward for rebellion, and opening the way for agitation in another quarter of the State.

3. A firm and secure administration for Commissioner Lee could be one of the best justifications for the considerable trouble and expense to which your Government put itself for the purpose of restoring law and order in Anguilla and, at long last, in the discharge of its legal obligations to this State in the aspects of Defence and External Affairs. Firmness in Anguilla now is an absolute necessity. Such influence as Webster's will be eroded in proportion to the attention your Government pays him; and confidence in Anguilla and in the State at large will rise to the extent that it is seen that your Government are co-operating with the State Government over Anguillan affairs today on the inescapable basis of Anguilla's ultimate return to Constitutional rule in this country of which she continues legally to remain an integral part.

Premier