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BEACON

An Independent Anguillan Newspaper.

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Editor Allan Barrigan.

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EDITORIAL.

The people have gone to the polls and have cast their vote, and have showed that they are solidly behind Mr. Ronald Webster. The wording of the referendum, did not matter, it was in effect asking for a vote of confidence in Mr. Webster, and he got it.

While important issues were under discussion, the BEACON used its right as an Independent Newspaper to criticise the Government's policy. Now that the people have made their choice, the BEACON hopes to throw its whole weight behind the Government and support them on the course that they have taken, and continue to do so as long as it is in the best interest of the people.

We repeat that the referendum was in effect a vote of confidence in the Government. But wrapped up with this, were two other issues, the cutting of ties with Britain and the Commonwealth, and the adoption of a new constitution.

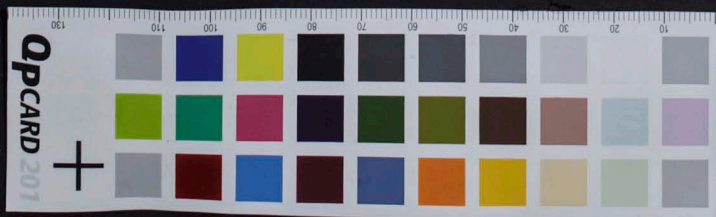
The Carribean consists of Independent and Dependent countries, some of the Independent ones like Jamaica, Trinidad, Barbados and Guyana, are still members of the British Commonwealth. The Dependent ones like Antigua, St. Lucia, St. Kitts and others, still depend on England to some degree. There are some dependent upon France, and some dependent on the United States. There are also Independent countries like Cuba, Haiti, and San Domingo. Given their free choice, there is no doubt that Anguilla would prefer to be aligned with the dependent countries, rather than keep company with the Independent ones.

We hope that when the break with St. Kitts has been recognized, that we will eventually ally ourselves with the British ones.

On the question of the constitution, all will admit that much more time should have been given to it, and it is such an important document, that the people should have had some advice from lawyers, and to have followed the recommendations made by the Council, who spent so much time discussing it. There are many things about the constitution with which we do not agree. We hope that in its final form, certain sections will be revised or omitted, by the will of the people, when their full implications have been thoroughly understood.

At this point the Anguillans have adopted this constitution as the law of the land, and have also agreed to declare the island Independent of the Commonwealth. The people have spoken and all Anguillans are now committed to the step taken, whether they voted for or against. The choice given on the ballot was not much, for Anguillans would do anything rather than going back to the yoke of the growing Dictator in St. Kitts. Let us hope that England and the rest of the world, will now be satisfied that no matter what, Anguillans are determined to go it alone, before they return to the rule of Bradshaw.

The days ahead are critical for us. The reactions of other countries to our stand will be vital for us (Cont'd on page 3).



REPORT OF THE MEETING ON RONALD WEBSTER'S PARK. ON FEB. 2ND.

The meeting was opened by the Chief Executive Mr. Ronald Webster and called on the crowd to sing the last verse of our National Song, "We're out to build a new Anguilla". Mr. Webster told us that there was a Television team present who, were filming this meeting. He also said to the people that the time was drawing near when they would be required to go to the polls to decide their freedom. He ruled out the possibility of Anguilla getting into the hands of Russia or Cuba. Mr. Webster then said he would call on the members of the council to speak. The first speaker Mr. John Hodge, said that the whole of his constituency was in favour of the constitution and hoped that the balance of the island felt the same way. He asked that unity may prevail throughout the island. He also asked every one to consider the constitution that has been agreed upon by the majority of the council members. Mr. Hazel said that he who represents his district, felt like he was part of a body that represents the whole of Anguilla. He said that this was not the end of the revolution but only the beginning, and he did not want to be misconstrued, as what might have happened the last time he spoke. Mr. Hazel said that this document (constitution) was given to us by the Chairman of the council for our perusal, and amendments. He added that the document needed scrutiny and they all should see it, read it, digest it, and make their comments before they should come to any hasty conclusions. He reminded them that Anguilla was taken into an Associated Statehood without their consent, and appealed to the people not to let it happen again. For this reason he said, it is given to you for your acceptance or refusal. He told them not to expect him to tell them what to do with it, and reminded them that it was a serious document and will effect generations to come, and not some thing that should be taken lightly. In closing he told them that the future of Anguilla now rests in their hands. Mr. Colin Hodge told the people how we have been oppressed for so long, and appealed to Britain for help, to which she replied, that she could give no aid in this situation. He said that we all are fools in this instance and God will take care of us. He referred to Bradshaw's statement that we are adrift and the rocks can pick us up. He also said that any shark can eat us with the exception of Mr. Bradshaw. Mr. Emile Gumbs said the council had given a lot of time on the document, sometimes without lunch, up to nine hours a day. He said when the document was put to the vote in the council as to whether it should be put to the people, he told them that, in his opinion it was not ready and did not agree to all of it and did not feel it was fit as it stands to be put to the people. Mr. Atlin Harrigan said he felt it his duty to tell the people where he stood with the document. He went on to say that we have come a long way and had now reached a position where it was a matter of Independence all by ourselves. He also told them that this was something they all will have to decide. He added that there were long hours spent, and that the council had seen it fit to take out certain sections which were now been reinserted. He would be doing injustice to himself if he said he was satisfied with it, and said "You may or may not be satisfied when you go through it but it was now up to you to accept it". Mr. Wallace Rey said that the purpose of the meeting was to present a constitution to the people. He told them that the seven members of the council had worked long hours and had taken out certain sections but was put back in after it was explained by a person ^{who} knew law. (Con't on Page 3)

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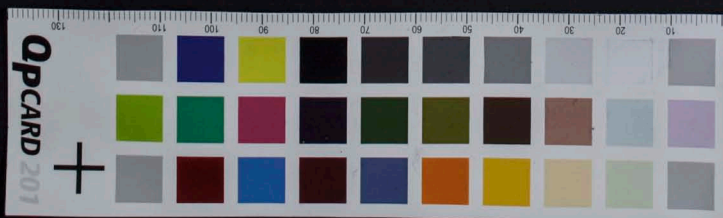
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(Con't from Page 2)

(Mr. Rey did not say who the person was.) He said everybody agreed to it, with the exception of Mr. Emile Gumbs, he said that Mr. Gumbs did not agree because he was prejudiced against the man that explained it. He added that Mr. Harrigan purposely excused himself because he did not want to be there on the finishing of the document. He told the people that if they found parts that they could not understand, that they should ask somebody to explain it for them or get another lawyer to peruse it, but warned that such a lawyer may omit or insert certain things to his own gain. He said that it was not a long document drawn up like the British ones to confuse them, this is a simple constitution with no over-lapping. There are two courses only he said, either except it or go back to St. Kitts. He pointed out that it was said that Atlin Harrigan started the revolution and was now pulling out, and added that Mr. Harrigan had sold them out for a few dollars. The others who had agreed to the Constitution would never sell the people out. He said in conclusion that if they found any bad sections in the Constitution, he would have them taken out. He pointed out a good section which said "If you owe money to someone you can not be put in prison for it!"

Mr. Ronald Webster who wound up the meeting said that, what must be done by the leaders and the people would be done. He did not want to lead his people to failure. They had either got to agree to the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence or else go back to St. Kitts. He said that the British Government had forced Anguillans into this position, and appealed to the Anguillans to move together to freedom, and vote in a referendum on Feb. 6th. It was better to be firm and free than to be slaves. A return to the federation of St. Kitts would be suicidal, because we would again be ruled by a people that had no interest in our welfare. He appealed to Anguillans to be united as this issue had divided families and friends and relations. He asked them to trust in God who would take care of them and to go to the polls and vote as their conscience dictated. The meeting ended with singing the last verse of the National Song.

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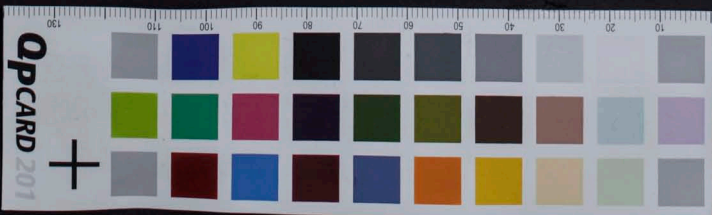
CARD OF THANKS:

The family of the late Daniel Adams, would like through this medium, to thank all relatives and friends who extended sympathy or sent letters and cards, during their recent bereavement. Also special thanks to those who helped in any way during his illness. May he rest in peace.

Yolande Gumbs.

EDITORIAL: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1.

We feel that we should give warning to the people of Anguilla, that the final solution may take many months, even perhaps years, and we urge the people of Anguilla to be patient and united in the difficult times ahead, and we hope that the BEACON will as in the past be a rallying point for those in Anguilla, and the interpretor of Anguilla's actions to the outside world.



LETTER FROM MR. ALTON RICHARDSON OF SLOUGH BUCKS, ENGLAND.

From the gallery of the House of Commons, I have heard arguments and counter arguments, but there are two occasions which left an indelible mark in my mind. The Hon. Harold Wilson, the Prime Minister, a man who, I think would have been another Lord Birkett had he taken the legal profession, like Lord Birkett has Christian principles. I am told that when he was a boy, after hearing a sermon, went home and told his father with some delight, "Pa, the Minister said, "God made us all- white and black!" In the House, Mr. Wilson, in a moving address, and in a voice which could not fail to give him a majority verdict, applauded the Czechoslovaks for their stand even in the presence of tanks. The other occasion was when the House was debating the race Relations Bill, Mr. Quentin Hogg, a man with a dynamic personality, a Queen's Counsel, sitting on the back bench of the opposition party rose to speak. Even though Mr. Wilson was fighting for people like me I could not fail to appreciate Mr. Hogg's argument. He asked Mr. Wilson, naming different Nationalities, if he would put them to live in one flat, expecting good relationship. What Mr. Hogg wanted to show the House was that it is one thing to pass a law, but it is another thing to get people of different political beliefs to live together. Now how do you reconcile these statements as far as Anguilla is concerned? Everybody except Bradshaw knows that like the Czechs, we are subjected to a dictatorship under St. Kitts. Unlike Russia, St. Kitts does not have a sufficient military force. Like Rhodesia, where Mr. Wilson has repeatedly ruled out the use of force, he will not send marines to Anguilla again. Assuming that Mr. Wilson is the sort of man I think he is, why is it that up to now Anguilla has received no legal recognition from Britain? Throughout Colonial Rule, Britain has never seen to it that the views of the electorate are effectively endorsed. Up to this day, as far as I know, Mr. Bottomley has made no comment on the poor representation in Nevis and Anguilla-- They are blind to that "Herd them, they are of one fold, don't listen to them, they will patch things up". With the Chairman of the Anguilla Improvement Association, we wrote to Mr. Wilson and Mr. Heath, and, as ever, there were promises. Colin Rickards once said to me, "Alton, the British Press do not care much about West Indian affairs". So it is with the House, because Anguilla, Unlike Rhodesia, will never become a party issue at an election here. Apart from private members, you do not hear of the Opposition Party, sponsoring such a debate. This is the core of the matter. All we hear and see is H.M.G. trying to play off one side against the other; telling one side this and the other side something else. Mr. Bottomley, like the old masters with an inaccurate report, helped to put us in this mess. When we expressed our resentment in action, Lord Shepherd back from the West Indies, reported that it was the work of gangsters and gamblers. Now they are all embarrassed because there is Bradshaw ready to accuse them of encouraging fragmentation at the same time going against Mr. Bottomley's recommendation. But the truth is, apart from name, Anguilla has always been separate from St. Kitts and always will be. Lord Parker, the Chief Justice once said, "Christianity teaches morality; the Law enforces it". Armed with this and Mr. Hogg's argument, I want to ask Mr. Wilson and others concerned, these Questions:-

1. Can you applaud the Czechs, and at the same time deny Anguilla's constitutional rights?
2. How can you stand by the wishes of the people of Gibraltar, and ignore the Anguillans? Each one possesses what every man is entitled to- human dignity.

(Con't on Page 6.)

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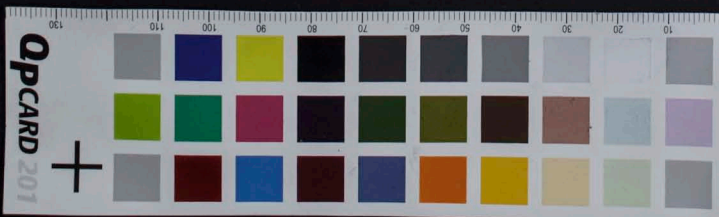
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MR. TONY LEE VISITS:

The former British Senior Official to Anguilla, Mr. Tony Lee returned to the island last Saturday Feb. 1st. Mr. Lee told us that he was no longer the B.S.O., but was now attached to the British Representative's Office in St. Lucia, and resides in Antigua. He said he was now first secretary to the British Representative and was assigned to St. Kitts and Anguilla to carry out H.M.G.'s responsibilities to these islands. Mr. Lee said that he hoped to be back next week and left on Wednesday via St. Maarten.

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 CBC TELEVISION ON ANGUILLA;

Arriving on the island last Saturday Feb 1st. was a team from CBC T.V. of Canada. The team headed by Mr. Gordon Donaldson, came in prospect of doing a half hour documentary film of Anguilla. On getting permission from the Chief Executive Mr. Ronald Webster, he was informed of the referendum to be held on Feb. 6th, and was delighted to be here for this occasion.

Mr. Donaldson told us that the half hour colour film is for the weekly programme, "Newsmagazine", and will be shown in Canada on Feb. 18th. or 25th. He said that the T.V. station is beamed and received as far away as Newfoundland. The biggest T.V. station in the world he added. The film will also be carried on other networks if they are interested. Other members of the team are Enian Murry, Wallace Donaldson and Ed. Chong.

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 CHURCH NEWS.

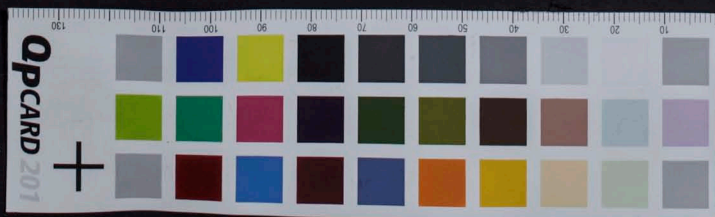
For the last year, Anglicans in Anguilla had been looking forward to the Ordination of the Priesthood of the Rev'd Emerson Richardson, an Anguillian which was to take place in St. Mary's Church. It is with very great regret and in spite of very strong protests from many in Anguilla that we have to announce that this ordination will not after all take place in Anguilla but at the Cathedral in Antigua, on Feb. 16th. It is the more to be regretted that Emerson Richardson is the third Anguillian to become a priest, and so far no ordination has ever taken place in Anguilla.

We hear that a few of his friends, and his fiancée Miss Violet Richardson hope to charter a plane to attend the ordination in Antigua, after which they will bring Emerson Richardson back with them, and he hopes to celebrate his first Mass in St. Mary's Church on Monday February 17th. at 7.15 p.m. He invites all his friends and well wishers to be there.

On Sunday Feb. 2nd, the congregation at St. Mary's were delighted to have a visiting Canadian Roman Catholic Priest with them, taking a full part in the service of Candelmass, and addressing them from the Pulpit. He said that he felt completely at home, doing the same things and singing the same hymns as he would in his parish in Canada. It had really brought home to him the wrongness of disunity, that two congregations should still be officially separated when they were obviously one in their faith

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 RAINFALL IN ANGUILLA FOR MONTH OF JANUARY.

Valley	2.22 inches	FOR MORE RESULTS ALWAYS ADVERTISE IN THE BEACON.
Island Harbour	2.67 "	
West End	1.40 "	



(Con't from Page 4.)

When speaking to Mr. Hall, the first thing he produced for me was Mr. Adams's signature. It is only in St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla that you can herd people without a referendum. Mr. Wilson, during the Czech crisis said that not even tanks can change peoples political beliefs. He might also have said, that neither can the presence of British Marines change the minds of Anguillans.

I cannot imagine Mr. Wilson starting a war where there was none before, and I submit that to ignore the plea of Anguilla is tantamount to starting a war which can only end when our wishes are respected.

"Breathes there a man with soul so dead

Who never to himself has said,

This is my own, my native land".

I do not want publicity, but with Powerlism and Bradshawism, if I can not live in Anguilla in peace, what alternative have I but to become a human torch in front of 10 Downing Street?

Ed. Note. Mr. Richardson hopes to contribute a further article next week, entitled, "What I would say to H.M.G. if I was allowed to speak!"

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MESSAGE TO THE LOYAL ANGUILLANS AT HOME AND ABROAD FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE.

It is with great pleasure to give thanks and warm appreciations for the patronage and determination in liberating our long suffering island.

It is indeed a pleasure to bring the results of the referendum to our Declaration and Constitution for the Republic of Anguilla. Results- East End-441, Roaches Hill, Valley North 285, George Hill 285, South Hill 421, West End 189, St. Thomas 118, Total Votes cast-1812. Total for the liberation 1739- Thanks to all those who participated in making this event a success.

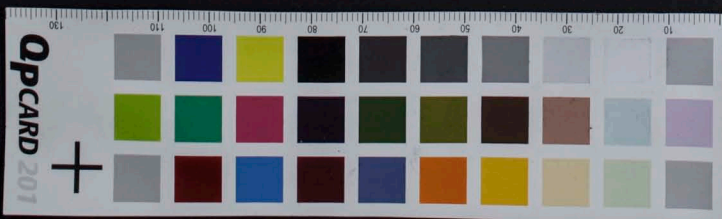
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RESULTS OF THE REFERENDUM HELD ON FEB. 6TH.

Anguillans went the polls once more, and unanimously voted to go Independent of Britian and has become the smallest Republic in the World, with 95.9% of the votes cast in favour of the constitution. A total of 1812 votes were cast; 1739 voted in favour of the Republic, against 4 voting for the return of Anguilla to st. Kitts. A total of 67 ballots were spoiled. Anguillans in St. Thomas were also able to cast their votes. A ballot box was taken to St. Thomas and flown back to Anguilla at 6.30 pm. on Thursday. Out of the 121 votes cast in St. Thomas, 118 voted in favour of The Constitution, none voted to return to St. Kitts, and 3 were spoilt. The referendum was supervised by Mr. Rapheal Lake, Acting Magistrate of Anguilla. The Constitution which makes provisions for an 11 member Legislation in many ways resembles the Constitution of the United States of America. We hope to print it in sections in the coming issues of the Beacon.

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FOR NEWS AND VIEWS READ THE BEACON WEEKLY



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Thinking of keeping your money safe--open a BARCLAYS Savings account.

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1/2¢ to 25¢ used \$8.00 Unused \$15.00 Set of all 11 values 1/2¢ to 25¢ \$125.00. Unused \$300.00. Complete Set used \$750.00. Unused \$1850.00 All in U.S.\$. Leave Stamps On Envelopes If Possible. Contact S.M. Risdon, Phillipsburg, St. Marten or Atlin Harrigan, The Beacon.

If you are travelling in or out of Anguilla- Then fly VALLEY AIR SERVICE For those who like to travel NOW- No waiting- see V.A.S. We fly daily (except holidays) between Anguilla, St. Thomas and St. Maarten. We also accept Charter flights to any island in the Caribbean. St. Thomas Tel. 774-1576, St. Maarten 3202, At the Valley Anguilla.

Dr. Defreitas will be in attendance at the Valley Administration Building on Saturday February 15th.

Available at Watkin Hodge's Grocery Stoney Ground.

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NEW PLANE FOR V.A.S.

Valley Air Service Air Taxi that operates between Anguilla, St. Thomas and St. Marten, has purchased a new plane. The five seater Aztec Piper N 19273 replaces the four seater Aztec Piper, V.A.S, now operates two Aztecs Pipers which has a capacity of 10 passenger seats. The New plane was put into operation on wednesday 5th, Feb.1969.

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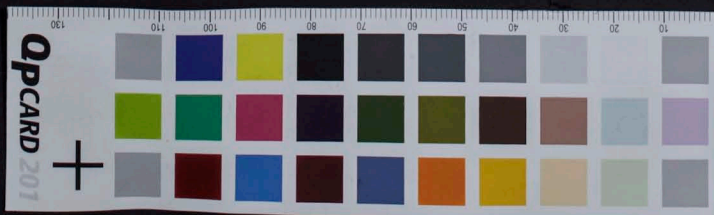
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WEEKLY



Extract from The Conch Shell.

The small South Pacific island of Nauru (8 1/2 square miles; population: 6,000) has been accorded a "Special" status within the Commonwealth which may well be the forerunner of similar arrangements for other small territories.

Certainly it is an arrangement which would be ideal for Anguilla. The island was discovered by British mariners in 1798 but was never colonised as such and remained in the hands of its indigenous Polynesian population until Germany, anxious to acquire an Empire annexed it in the 1880's, along with several other small South Sea Islands. Following the First World War, during which the Germans were evicted by Australia, the island became a Trust Territory of the League of Nations. It was jointly administered by Britain, Australia and New Zealand. Nauru was captured by the Japanese during the Second World War and after it re-assumed its status of Trust Territory of the United Nations, successor to the League of Nations.

Nauru is rich in phosphates and her people have enjoyed a relatively high standard of living in recent years because of the value of their island's sole natural asset which is exportable. She also issues her own postage stamps and has a very small tourist trade and a localized copra industry.

During 1967 the island was invited to become an Associated State with Australia, very much on the pattern of the Associated States of the Eastern Caribbean- including the State of St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla- and Britain. It would have meant full internal self- government for the island, with Defence and External Affairs looked after by Australia. (It is noteworthy that Nauru was invited to become an Associated State. Anguilla was given no such choice). The Nauruan Government, however, declined the invitation and declared their desire for Independence, announcing at the same time that they wished to have some links with the Commonwealth and did not wish to take a seat at the United Nations because they considered their island too small to bear the costs or responsibilities of such trappings of nationhood.

On 31st January, 1968, the Republic of Nauru came into being. Almost at once the Nauruan Government entered into treaties with Australia to look after defence and foreign affairs - as would have been the case had they accepted Associated Statehood - and submitted a plea through the Commonwealth Secretariat in London for some special links with the Commonwealth. A "Special" status was worked out by Britain, Australia and the Commonwealth Secretariat and was submitted to the other Commonwealth members for approval, which it readily gained.

The Republic of Nauru, in return for a modest contribution to the upkeep of the Commonwealth Secretariat - this is scaled to population and per capita income - will be able to enjoy the full facilities of the Secretariat and to send Ministers to all Commonwealth meetings and organisations except for the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference. It will mean that the Nauruan Government will be able to take full advantage of Commonwealth endeavours in such fields as Education, Medical Co-operation, Law, Finance and such other functional and technical assistance.

Similar arrangements could no doubt be worked out for Anguilla once the St. Kitts-Nevis crisis is resolved and would no doubt find favour with the Island Council. The Friends of Anguilla believe that such an arrangement should be actively explored.

