

# Anguillans Accept Britain's Proposals

THE PEOPLE of Anguilla accepted Britain's new proposals on Tuesday to settle the four-year-old deadlock over Anguilla's secession from the Associated State of St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla.

Britain's Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office with Barbados' lawyer, Mr. Jack Dear, Q.C., at an official meeting the day before.

The Anguilla Council had been discussing the proposals offered by Mr. Joseph Godber,

Mr. Dear arrived in Anguilla last Saturday evening at the invitation of the Council to which he is legal adviser. He returned to Barbados on Wednesday afternoon.

## READ

The Democrat WEEKLY

It is understood that the new proposals which were rejected by Premier Bradshaw, include that

the island be governed by an administrator and with a similar administration to that of a Crown Colony. The proposals were agreed to

by the members of the Council after they had made some minor amendments. It is expected that upon agreement the British Government will make effective an Order in Council separating Anguilla from the Associated State.

## ● WEBSTER —

*We have accepted Britain as our Partner*

FOLLOWING the Commissioner's talk, this message by Mr. Ronald Webster, leader of the Anguilla Council, was also broadcast:

ONCE again it gives me great pleasure to address you and express the feelings of the Anguilla Council on the discussions held on

Monday and Tuesday on the proposals brought by the Rt. Hon. Joseph Godber, M.P., Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs.

## 'Message of Goodwill And Thanks' from H.M. Commissioner

people of Anguilla from Her Majesty's Commission, Mr. Arthur Watson, first broadcast over Radio Anguilla on Wednesday evening:

"Good evening!

Last night I had the pleasant duty of reporting to the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the Rt. Hon. Joseph Godber, M.P. and to the British Government that the Anguilla Council had approved the proposals which Mr. Godber had brought to Anguilla little over a week ago with certain changes which have since been agreed.

"This was a momentous day for the Council and people of Anguilla and I'm glad to be able to add my own message of goodwill and thanks to all those who have contributed to it.

"The discussions yesterday, were a culmination of many long months of negotiation and hard work. From the time when Mr. Godber arrived on his most recent visit we have seen a period of particular interest, discussion and

study. This was only right as the future depended on its outcome.

"But as those of you who heard Mr. Godber's broadcast will remember he emphasised that whatever was proposed, must be acceptable to the Council and people of Anguilla. He asked the Council to consider the proposals for the future which he had put to them and as you know, the Council has in the last few days been considering them very carefully with the help of their legal adviser, Mr. Jack Dear, Q.C.

"I should here like to pay my own personal tribute to Mr. Dear for the time and care he has devoted to help us. As a result of their study, the Council had certain changes proposed and I am glad to say that the British Government was able to agree to the great majority of their recommendations.

"As a result, the Council's approval reflected to me that what is now people of Anguilla have through their elected representatives on their Council an opportunity to play the fullest and most satisfying part in the Government of the island.

"The past had called for much patience and forbearance. I would here like to thank Mr. Ronald Webster and all members of the Council for their work and especially for the courtesy with which all our talks have been conducted.

"Even now, patience will be required; it may be some little time before we can see the result of what was decided yesterday, but we can now look forward with confidence in the knowledge that what is to be done has been considered with the greatest care and found acceptable to those who are most concerned—the people of Anguilla.

"I wish you all for the future all that you most desire and I am happy that we have reached this conclusion.

Good night!"

"I wish to let you proposals. After some stiff days of discussion, the Legal Adviser Mr. Jack Dear, Q.C., the Anguilla Council and some leading citizens of the island have finally agreed on the proposals with certain amendments.

"For the last four years our objective has been for direct status with Britain. The Anguilla Council is a fully recognised, legal and constitutional body with power to run our own affairs in Anguilla together with Her Majesty's Commissioner.

"I do believe that the Minister of State and his colleagues in the British Government are determined to find a way out of this problem so that development may start in Anguilla without delay. We must continue to pray and ask for the blessings of Almighty God upon the responsible persons to carry out this momentous task. Anguillans have just accepted Britain to be their partner to work together from now onwards.

"Some of us may not

realise the responsibilities and significance to be recognised as a partner, but it is my firm belief that we Anguillans are divinely guided by the invisible Hand.

"I shall quote a passage from the Bible:

"Lay not your trust in man as you may be deceived but rather place your confidence in God who will never leave nor forsake you."

"Let us centre our eyes and hearts on Jesus and we shall have nothing to regret for He is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

"May I now entreat you, friends, to lay aside the animosity which separated us and move forward together to develop Anguilla — not only materially and educationally, but also spiritually.

"May I now take this opportunity to thank you for your confidence you have placed in me for the past four years and trust that I may continue to serve you most honestly and sincerely.

"We have a great task ahead, so we must decide our goal and marshal it well. May I again thank you for your kind cooperation during our great struggle for freedom. Let us now "doubt our doubts," terminate our fears and understand our misunderstandings.

"May the good Lord richly bless and keep your dear hearts united in peace and harmony"

