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Mr Don Mitchell CBE. QC.
Owen Lane
North Hill
Anguilla

Dear Mr Mitchell

Re: Independence

Let me first thank you for your letter to me of 14th May 2014, which I have read with great interest.

I agree with you that our peoples' distrust of governors and politicians is so great that they must be protected by including in our next Constitution all of the watchdog institutions you recommend. While our older generations of politicians are discredited, I have confidence that a new generation will come who will rise above petty name calling and political intrigue. They are the ones I am depending on to take the government of this island to the next level. Anguilla definitely needs a change in every sense of the word, politically, socially, and culturally, to name a few. We need to strengthen the reins, not tighten them.

In 1969 we were in a plight. We had a mandate granted by referendum to change the government of the Associated State of St Kitts, Nevis and Anguilla to one of an independent republic. The British intervention of that year changed the plans, until we are now back to full colonial status. Over the intervening period of time, that has served a purpose. Now we need to move from youth to adulthood. We have to continue the struggle, for the benefit of the history and people of Anguilla who are still growing up.

Since 1980 we have had no explanation from the British Government on what we ought to do from here on. They signed an Order in Council between us and them as an agreement, but with only them signing it. We are now at a stalemate. I want us to move away from that situation, and for us to discuss with an open mind what is needed for our protection and our progress in the future.

Now that we are about to have new elections, it is important that we at least have an idea of what is actually needed for us to progress politically. We can remain a dependent territory if we want that. We cannot go back to the old Constitution of 1976. We have passed that. We do not want the British to sit and feel that we are not going to develop politically. We are ready to open a new chapter. We need to go beyond the 1982 Constitution. It is antiquated. We need to pick up from where we stopped in 1969. We want to move on from where we are now and where we were before, not stand still.

There must be no doubt about what we want or where we want to go. We have to progress up the hill. There must be a continuation of the struggle, not an acceptance of the status quo. Any new Constitution short of independence must be just a new chapter to get us to where we want to go. I want to make sure that whatever is done, the British Government understands we still remain the Queen's loyal subjects so long as she wants us. But, we will one day have to decide for ourselves where we go from here. We need a new Constitution that takes us forward. Full political independence is the ultimate aim for a future day.

Yours sincerely

J. Ronald Webster

CC: HE The Governor, Ms Christina Scott
Hon Hubert Hughes, Chief Minister
Hon McNeil Rogers, Leader of the Opposition
Hon Edison Baird, Independent
Mr Victor Banks, Political Leader of the AUF
Ms Palmavon Webster, Independent
Rev Dr Clifton Niles
Mr Sutcliffe Hodge
Public Media