

**Press Statement by
Premier W. Alexander Scott JP, MP
to Introduce the Membership of
The Bermuda Independence Commission (BIC)
held On
Thursday 16 December 2004
At
3:00 p.m.
at
Camden**

Good afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for being here to witness this historic occasion.

Bermuda is certainly not the first country to discuss the issue of Independence or Sovereignty, but I think that we will be the first to do so in the manner which we are about to embark.

On Friday December 10th 2004, I stated in the House of Assembly that before Christmas, I would introduce the membership of a Bermuda Independence Commission to the public of Bermuda.

I am pleased to stand before you today to share the names and some of the faces of those individuals who will provide information and lead a public discussion on the topic of Independence for Bermuda.

You will immediately recognise from the list of names and see from the group assembled here that the BIC represents every facet of the community of Bermuda.

The intent was not to bring together every person we could find who was in favour of Independence, or to present all of the constitutional experts and lawyers that exist in Bermuda to share their expertise on the subject.

Instead, the intent is to provide a framework for a discussion on Independence in all its forms that is acceptable to Mr. and Mrs. Bermuda – male/female, white/black, businessman/grassroots, young and not so young.

The Bermuda Independence Commission will explore the subject of Independence and present it in a way that each of us, no matter what our background, can understand.

They will have access to the expertise and information that is necessary to educate the public and lead an informed discussion.

Now please turn your attention to the names of the Bermuda Independence Commission:

Bishop Vernon Lambe (Chairman)

Dame Lois Browne-Evans (Advisor)
Mrs. Janet Bradshaw
Ms. Crystal Caesar
Mr. Eddy DeMello
Ms. Donna Pearman
Mr. David Rowntree
Mr. Michael Winfield

Mr. Marc Bean
Mr. Derrick Burgess MP
Mr. Rolfe Commissiong
Mrs. Diane Kempe
Mr. Gary Phillips
Mr. Robert Steinhoff

We had also sent an invitation to the Opposition United Bermuda Party, but they have today declined that invitation.

Mr. Philip Perinchief will serve as the liaison to the BIC and in this role he will provide administrative, research and organizational support to the Chairman. As a Civil Servant, he will not be a voting (if that is how the BIC choose to come to decision) member of the BIC.

Thank you for providing me this opportunity to share this important occasion with you, I am now available to answer any questions that you might have.