

# millpoint limited

Donald P. Lines OBE FCA JP  
Chairman

June 11, 2009

Doctor the Honourable Ewart F. Brown, JP MP  
Premier  
Cabinet Office  
Front Street  
Hamilton

Dear Ewart:

This is the first time I have ever written to the Premier to complain about a decision made by Government but in this instance I feel I must.

To agree with the US Government to take four Chinese Muslim Uighurs and give them residence and effectively citizenship in Bermuda is an outrageous decision for a number of reasons:

1. This raises questions about how others, far more deserving, who have been resident in Bermuda for years and contributed to Bermuda are being treated by Government.
2. It raises questions about the US Government's behaviour for if these people have been wrongly imprisoned and are not terrorists then the US government should accept them as residents with the possibility of citizenship.
3. The Justice Department has said that they feel safer as a result of Bermuda taking these people, which certainly belies the question as to whether they are terrorists yet we are asked to take them when the US Government feels threatened by their presence and has publicly stated they will not be able to visit the US without specific consent of that government. Moreover, the US Justice Department has stated publicly that they feel easier as a result of the transfer of these individuals to Bermuda.
4. What are we going to do with these four Chinese "terrorists" and who will employ them – unless it is as cooks in "Case Mates" and even this strikes me as an unnecessary expense.
5. If they are not terrorists then the US should acquit them of any crimes and take them on as residents for it is they who arrested them and put them in Guantanamo.
6. To equate this decision with the decision to resettle Vietnamese refugees is totally without merit for the decision of Government to take a few refugees was made at the urging of the UK Government as a Bermuda-registered ship had rescued a large number of refugees at sea

and we felt some obligation to provide a haven for these unfortunate individuals. I was CEO of The Bank of Bermuda at that time and fully supported Government's action and we went further and took a family of four, named Lee, under our wing to demonstrate that support both physically and economically.

7. I think this proposal is an outrageous slap in the face of a number of people in Bermuda who have no hope of residential rights but who contribute to the Island and continue to contribute both economically by working here.

I cannot understand what it is we expect to get from the US Government by whitewashing their mishandling of these people. Who persuaded the Bermuda Government to take this strange action and to what advantage?

In my view we should reconsider this decision.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Donald P. Lines', with a long, sweeping underline.

Donald P. Lines

DPL/jcd