

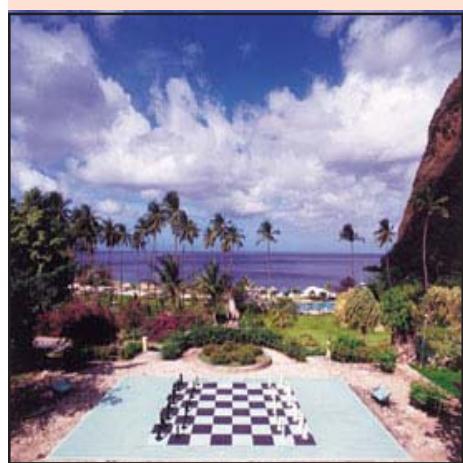


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No. 47. Saturday, June 26, 2004



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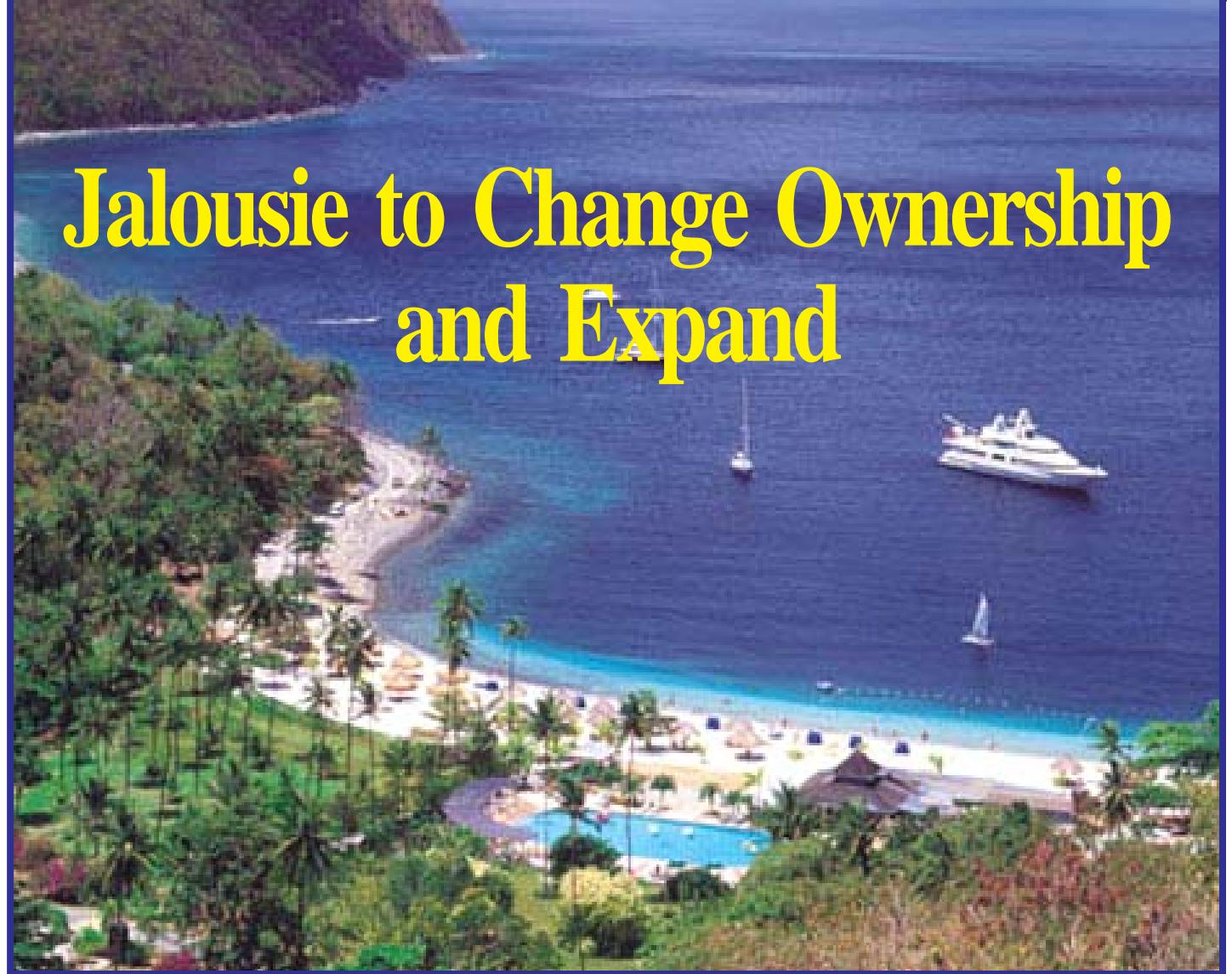


OECS Day - page 5



**Increase in
fuel price
finally announced...**

**Jalousie to Change Ownership
and Expand**



"Take 2" - A fifteen minute news review of the week.

Every Friday at 6.15 p.m. on NTN, Cablevision Channel 2.

Government Notebook

A fresh news package
daily
on all local radio stations



Price of Fuel rises finally

Government of St. Lucia has suffered loss of revenue amounting to \$15.5 million over the past two years in order to prevent the price of fuel from going up. But this situation can no longer be sustained and Prime Minister Dr Kenny D. Anthony has finally announced the much-anticipated increase, to take effect as of midnight, June 22, 2004.

The announcement was made in a Statement to the House of Assembly on June 22, in which the Prime Minister indicated that the cost of gasoline and diesel would both increase by 75 cents per gallon.

Delivering the statement at the sitting of the House, the Prime Minister, who is also Minister of Finance, indicated that at its last meeting on Monday, June 7, the Cabinet of Ministers agreed that retail

"the local price increases at the pump had been occasioned by the steady increases in the price of fuel on the international market"

prices of Unleaded Gas and Diesel should be adjusted, in accordance with the recent movement in oil prices.

The Finance Minister explained that the local price increase at the pumps had been occasioned by the steady increases in the price of fuel on the international market. World Market prices, he indicated, had moved from US\$19.41 per barrel in 2002 to a peak of US\$42.33 per barrel on June 1, 2004, the highest in 21 years.

"up to the end of March this year, government had lost another \$4.1 million, causing a total loss of revenue of \$15.5 million in just over two years"

Further, he said, international forecasts are that the prices on the world market will continue to be high through to the end of September.

Dr Anthony said one direct consequence of the increasing prices on the international market was that Consump-

tion Tax revenues due to the Government of St. Lucia had declined significantly in the past two years. He reported that in 2002, government lost \$3.2 million and in 2004, \$8.2 million.

In addition, the Finance Minister indicated that up to the end of March this year, government had lost another \$4.1 million, causing a total loss of revenue of \$15.5 million in just over two years.

Dr Anthony recalled that the government has had a pricing mechanism in place since 1993, which had served to cushion the impact of the volatile international prices, and which shielded the general public from the rising costs of fuel. But, he explained, this protective pricing mechanism could no longer be continued and the government has had no alternative but to increase the fuel prices.

The Finance Minister noted that all other Caricom and OECS member-states — except Trinidad & Tobago — have had to either increase or announce intentions to increase the cost of fuel. He also recalled that the last time fuel

prices were increased at the pump in St. Lucia was in 2002, when Unleaded Gasoline was raised by 70 cents and Diesel was increased by 50 cents.

"all other Caricom and OECS member-states — except Trinidad & Tobago — have had to either increase or announce intentions to increase the cost of fuel"

Under the new pricing mechanism, unleaded gas will be increased from \$7.75 per gallon to \$8.50 per gallon and diesel will increase from \$7.00 per gallon to \$7.75 per gallon. However, there will be no increase for the moment in the price for cooking gas and kerosene.

As a note of caution, the Prime Minister indicated in his Statement to the House that the "Government intends to monitor local prices closely, to ensure that no undue advantage will be taken of the public with the new adjustments in the price of fuel."

Price of Unleaded Gasoline and Diesel Up



No Increase in Price of Cooking Gas and Kerosene



Jamaican PM to Address Joint Session of St. Lucia Parliament



Margaret Jobson, Undersecretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade with responsibility for Foreign Service Operations, presents a replica of the Jamaica Coat of Arms to Prime Minister P.J. Patterson (right) at the opening of the Jamaican Diaspora Conference at the Jamaica Conference Centre downtown Kingston. Looking on are Senator Delano Franklyn (2nd right), conference organiser and State Minister for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade.

Jamaican Prime Minister P.J. Patterson will create local history when he pays a two-day state visit to St. Lucia next week.

The Jamaican Prime Minister will enter the local record books on Thursday, July 1, when he becomes the first Caribbean leader to address a joint sitting of

the St. Lucia Parliament since Independence.

Mr. Patterson, who set his own political record in the number of times his party has been returned to office, has a packed diplomatic and social agenda for the two-day visit.

He arrives Wednesday, June 30, when Prime Minister Dr. Kenny D. Anthony will host an official welcome reception for his Jamaican counterpart.

On the following day, the visiting Jamaican leader will make several diplomatic calls before addressing the Joint Session of the St. Lucia Parliament.

This rare joint sitting (which only takes place for the presentation of the Governor General's Throne Speech and the opening of a new Parliament) will bring together both the Upper House (the Senate) and the Lower House (the House of Assembly).

The St. Lucia Prime Minister will host a special dinner for his visiting counterpart at the Sandals Grande on the evening of July 1st and the St. Lucia

Chamber of Commerce will have Mr. Patterson for lunch the following day.

While here, the Jamaican leader will also take time off to meet and greet his countrymen resident in St. Lucia. Prime Minister Patterson will host a reception for the Jamaican Community in St. Lucia at the Sandals Regency Resort and Spa at La Toc on the afternoon of July 2nd.

The visiting Jamaican Prime Minister will be accompanied by journalists, private sector officials, as well as Government officials, including Hon. Aloun Ndombet-Assamba, Minister of Industry and Tourism, and Sen. the Hon. Delano Franklyn, Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade.

Prime Minister Patterson, who is the outgoing Chairman of the Caribbean Community (Caricom), leaves the island on July 3 for Grenada, where he and Prime Minister Anthony will join other regional leaders for this year's annual Caricom Summit in St. George's.



Minister of Industry and Tourism, Aloun Ndombet Assamba makes a point during a question and answer segment at the Jamaican Diaspora Conference, being held at the Jamaica Conference Centre, downtown Kingston.

Second Zonal Meeting on Bananas set for Ti Rocher

Industry stakeholders, including the three Banana Companies, WIBDECO, Ministry of Agriculture, Banana Industry Trust, and EU/NAO will comprise a panel of industry officials when they meet with Banana farmers in the Micoud banana belt on Thursday, June 24. Set for the Ti Rocher Micoud community centre, the meeting is a series of zonal meetings to engage farmers on issues such as the world banana market, field to market chain, EUREPGAP, and the farmers' own concerns.

Organized by the Banana Emergency Recovery Unit (BERU), the zonal meetings forms part of a current education and outreach campaign, which is aimed

primarily at sensitizing farmers and the public to developments in the banana industry, action that has been taken, and

the benefits and national importance of these interventions.

While the deadline for EUREPGAP compliance has past, BERU said that farmers were increasingly challenged by new development. Having recently battled a leafspot disease outbreak, the industry is now aggressively engaged in an awareness campaign to orient both farmers and the public on the threat posed by the deadly Black Sigatoka disease, which is reported to have affected banana holdings as close as Trinidad and

Tobago.

Given the inability of some farmers in to become viable, BERU said that plans were afoot by the Ministry of Agriculture, to finalize programmes to facilitate farmers, who may decide to pursue other agricultural enterprises.

The zonal meetings will be held on a fortnightly basis, and will cover the banana farming communities islandwide. The first zonal meeting was held at the beginning of this month at the Babonneau community centre.



Farmer attending to Bananas

Government's Road Development Programme going Full Force

Despite the setbacks, the Government's Road Development Programme (RDP), which is being managed by construction firm, Consolidated Contractors International (UK) Limited is progressing steadily towards completion by early next year.

The RDP project involves the rehabilitation of Approximately 12. 5 kilometres of roads and includes the construction of seven bridges, rubble walls, drainage, placement of culverts, and laying of new water main lines. The overall RDP project is estimated to cost close to EC\$30 million.

Currently, the RDP is 60% complete and is expected to be completed as planned. The project will benefit the communities of Grande Riviere, Mornier, Trois Piton, Deglos, Grande Ravine, Derniere Riviere, La- Ressource and the Mabouya Valley.

Work is progressing on four different roads:

On the Grande Riveire to La Croix road, works on culverts, subsoil drains, retaining walls and water main line have been completed, and construction of concrete side drains and the processing of pavement layer works are in progress, including works on the Grande Riviere Bridge.

On the Deglos to Trois Piton road, culverts, subsoil drain, and retaining walls are being completed, while works on the main water line are about 90% complete. Concrete side drains and earth works are in progress, while the Deglos Bridge will be completed within nine months.

From Richfond to Grande Riviere, two bridges have been completed and will be open for traffic as soon as the safety precautions are completed. Also, works on culverts, concrete side drains and water line are in progress and retaining walls are almost complete.

In the La Ressource to Derniere Riviere segment, culvert installation is in an advanced stage

and the La Ressource Bridge will be completed within one month.

Project Engineer, Bassel Hilal said that, while much is being done on the bridges, all other components are receiving significant attention, in order to meet the completion date. For his part, Project Manager, Walid Jabara said that many residents were benefiting from the project.

"For example we have hired 330 employees to assure prompt completion of the project and also to provide a means of employment for residents in the various communities where the project is being carried out," Mr. Jabara said.



Project Manager, Walid Jabara



Deglos Bridge under construction



Deglos Road nearing completion

Cost of Fuel and Caribbean Integration top Issues on OECS Day



Prime Minister addressing the gathering during OECS Day

In light of the huge losses suffered by the sub-region as a result of the recent increase to the price of oil, Chairman of the OECS, Dr. Kenny Anthony recently announced the formation of an OECS Task Force on Energy. The decision was taken at the 39th Meeting of the OECS Authority, held recently in St. Vincent.

"Given the importance of energy to our strategic interests, our governments

have decided to establish an OECS Task Force on Energy, which will advise on effective energy conservation management, alternative energy sources and reform of the sector, among other things," Dr. Anthony said.

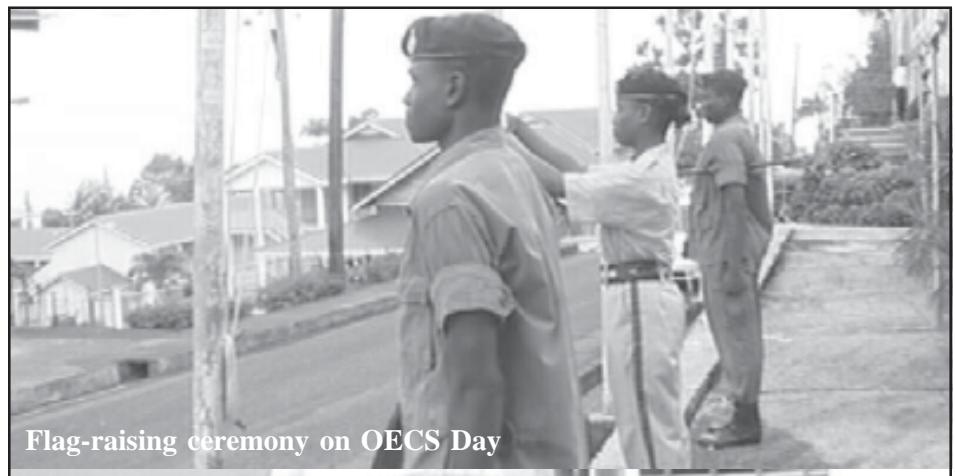
Speaking at the 23rd OECS Anniversary Celebrations on June 18, 2004, Dr. Anthony pinpointed initiatives that are uppermost on the agenda of OECS heads and the sub-region as a

whole. Among these is the formation of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME) by December 2005.

"Even as our sub-region works towards having all the necessary measures in place by December 2005, our member states share significant concerns, including the need for clarity on a range of issues, such as, the need for a regional development fund to assist our economies to fully participate and benefit from the CSME, an assessment of the structure of the OECS economies in the context of the application of

Chapter 7 of the Treaty, and the need for benchmarks on CSME readiness," stated Dr. Anthony in his address.

According to the OECS chairman, the regional body will have to identify its particular and peculiar interests, which may not necessarily be consistent with those of the wider Caricom and international community. In order to effectively promote and safeguard the region's own interests, Dr. Anthony called for a higher and deeper form of integration.



Flag-raising ceremony on OECS Day



Len Ishmael Director General, OECS addressing the gathering on OECS Day

PM Reiterates Call for St. Lucians to Uphold the Law

Prime Minister, Honourable Dr. Kenny Anthony has appealed to St. Lucians to continue to play their individual and collective roles in the fight against crime.

Devoting his Weekly Radio Address to the need for upholding the law, Dr. Anthony, who also holds the portfolio for National Security, spoke of a disturbing trend, whereby more and more St. Lucians are turning a blind eye to crime.

"I know that there are many of you who would not inform the police of criminal activities taking place in your backyard or your neighbourhood," said Dr. Anthony, adding, "you will not call because you believe that it's not your business, and in any event, you do not trust the police with information. You may think that all these reasons are justified. But just consider this: if all of us think that way and do not report crime in order to convict criminals, then to what extent will criminals ever get caught or will justice ever be served?"

The police, he said, must remain vigilant even to the slightest infractions of law and order.

Dr. Anthony spoke out against the condemnation heaped on law enforcement officials when they provide a firm and decisive response to crime.

Commenting on the recent child abduction incident, Prime Minister Anthony noted that criminals were becoming bolder, more aggressive and sophisticated in their methods.

He admonished parents to take the responsibility for their children more seriously, teaching them to be vigilant and distrustful of strangers.

Meanwhile, he had words of commendation for St. Lucians who uphold the law.

Dr. Anthony singled out the young men, who helped in foiling the attempted kidnapping, and praised the efforts of some corporate entities that have made offers of employment to the men.

Prime Minister Anthony ended by reiterating a call made in his New Year's message for St. Lucians to display better conduct and tolerance.

He has also promised to pin point some measures aimed at addressing the apparent upsurge in major crimes on the island.

Police Raid at Wilton's Yard Efficient, Effective

◆ Press Conference well attended



Minister of Home Affairs and Internal Security, Senator the Hon. Calixte George

A Press Conference held on Monday, June 21, by the Police following the successful raid at Wilton's Yard in Catries was well attended.

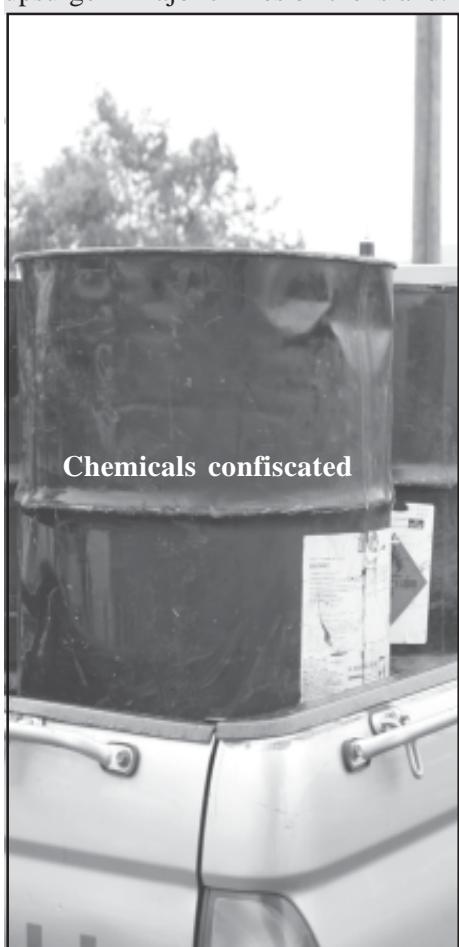
Minister of Home Affairs and Internal Security, Senator the Hon. Calixte George revealed that a large quantity of marijuana, a small amount of cocaine, three drums of chemicals used for processing hard drugs, and a high-powered gun were confiscated during the raid of Friday, June 18, 2004.

Minister George praised the police for the level of restraint exhibited, despite the violent reaction to the raid by some members of that community, which resulted in damage to one police vehicle and injury to one police officer.

In his most recent Radio Address, Prime Minister, Dr. Kenny D. Anthony promised to pin point some measures aimed at addressing the apparent upsurge in major crimes on the island.



Press conference well attended



Chemicals confiscated



Journalists examine drugs confiscated



P.J. Patterson

**The Prime Minister of Jamaica
the Most Honourable
Percival James Patterson, is the
Member of Parliament for Eastern
Westmoreland.**

His elective career began with a by-election in March 1970, occasioned by the sudden death of the then Member of Parliament, Max Carey.

He was appointed Prime Minister of Jamaica In March 1992, following his election as President of the People's National Party (PNP), on the retirement of former Prime Minister the late Michael Manley.

Mr. Patterson was returned to office following the national elections of 1993, and has the distinction of being the first Prime Minister of Jamaica to be sworn in for a fourth consecutive term of office, after he led the People's National Party to victory in the elections of October 2002.

A former student of Somerton Primary School in St James, Calabar High School in Kingston, Prime Minister Patterson graduated from the University of the West Indies, Mona in 1958 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree (Honours) in English. He studied law at the London School of Economics (LSE), graduating in 1963 with a Bachelor of Laws Degree.

At the LSE, he was awarded the Sir Hughes Parry prize for excellence In the Law of Contract, and won a Leverhulme Scholarship at the LSE.

He was called to the Bar at Middle Temple in 1963 and admitted to the Jamaican Bar later that year. Mr. Patterson was appointed Queen's Counsel In 1984.

Political Career

Political service for Prime Minister Patterson began in 1958, when he joined the People's National Party as an organiser, moving to membership on the National and Party Executive Councils in 1964. He was elected a Vice-President of the PNP in 1969 and served as Party Chairman from 1983, until he became Party Leader In 1992.

Mr. Patterson's distinguished Cabinet career began in 1972, with his appointment as Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism. Since then, he has served as Deputy Prime and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, (1978-1980); Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Development Planning and Production (1989-1990); and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Planning (1990-1991). Prime Minister Patterson's vision for Jamaica is one in which "we build a land of opportunity and prepare for a brand new world in which every citizen - man, woman and child shares a sense of self-esteem and personal stake holding in a modern, prosperous and truly enlightened Jamaica."

Profile On The Most Hon. P.J. Patterson, ON, PC, QC, MP, BA (HON), LLB, Prime Minister of Jamaica

Achievements as Prime Minister

Noted among Prime Minister Patterson's list of achievements is his decision to make education his Administration's top priority. To this end, the largest portions of successive national budgets have been allocated towards this sector.

His goal is to integrate Information Technology throughout all levels of the education spectrum and the wider society. It is anticipated that some 40,000 jobs will be created in this sector between 2000 and 2002. Mr. Patterson also created the National Commission on Science and Technology in 1993 and was the first to directly link Jamaica's science and technology initiatives with the nation's industrial policy.

As Prime Minister, he spearheaded Jamaica's cessation of an 18 year borrowing relationship with the International Monetary Fund, which effectively created a platform for Jamaica to once again exercise control over its economic affairs.

His efforts in the successful implementation of sound macro economic policies, have led to the stabilization of the economy with the lowest levels of continuous inflation ever, a stable foreign exchange rate which is market determined, and record levels of Net International Reserves. Prime Minister Patterson has also promulgated a National Industrial Policy, a blue print for the nation's growth and development in the 21st century.

This policy identifies five strategic clusters for development: Tourism; Shipping and Berthing; Agro-processing; Apparel; and Bauxite and Alumina, including non-metallic minerals.

The Prime Minister's social agenda has spawned the creation of a National Land and shelter Policy and resulted In the accelerated provision of housing solutions for the people of Jamaica. Special arrangements have also been made for the elderly and low income earners to benefit from the National Housing Trust by way of a special low interest rate.

He also conceptualized and implemented the Operation Pride programme, a comprehensive shelter programme which is helping to regularize informal settlements and fulfil the country's housing needs.

Mr. Patterson's tenure has witnessed the reintroduction of the National Youth Service, the creation of the Special Training and Empowerment Programme (STEP) and the Introduction of the Jamaica Drug for the Elderly Programme. These programmes are all aimed at assisting the most vulnerable groups in the society, with emphasis on the young and the elderly. Mr. Patterson's commitment to the country's growth and development is underpinned by his insistence upon adherence to democratic principles, integ-

rity in public life and strong ethic and moral principles.

Prime Minister Patterson is respected worldwide as an astute international statesman who has made a mark in such fora as the United Nations, the Group of 77, Commonwealth, the Non-Aligned Movement, the African Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) group, the Association of Caribbean States, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and many others. He has chaired the Group of 15 developing nations (G-15) and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

He is currently the Chairman of the CARICOM Prime Ministerial Sub-Committee on External Negotiations.

Mr. Patterson has utilized his legal and negotiating skills in the international arena, especially as one of the leading architects of the LOME Convention between the ACP states and the European Union, which was first signed in 1975. He was also one of the principal participants in the evolution of the Caribbean Free Trade Area into CARICOM.

Prime Minister Patterson was appointed to the Privy Council of the United Kingdom in 1992 and is the recipient of several international awards

Foreign awards include:

Order of Aguila Aztec, Mexico-July 1990.

Order of Liberator Simon Bolivar(First Class), Venezuela-1992.

The Great Cross of the order of Bernardo O'Higgins, Chile – 1992.

Order of San Marti, Argentina -1992.

Order of Gran Cruz Gonzalo Jiminez de Quesada Colombia -1994.

Order of Francisco Morazan in the rank of Gran Cruz Placa de Oro, Honduras - 1994.

Order of Jose Marti, Cuba – 1997.

Order of the Volta, Ghana – 1999.

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Agricola Medal - awarded In Jamaica 2001.

Juan Mora Fernandez, Great Silver Cross -Costa Rica 2001

The Prime Minister has been bestowed with academic awards by tertiary institutions worldwide.

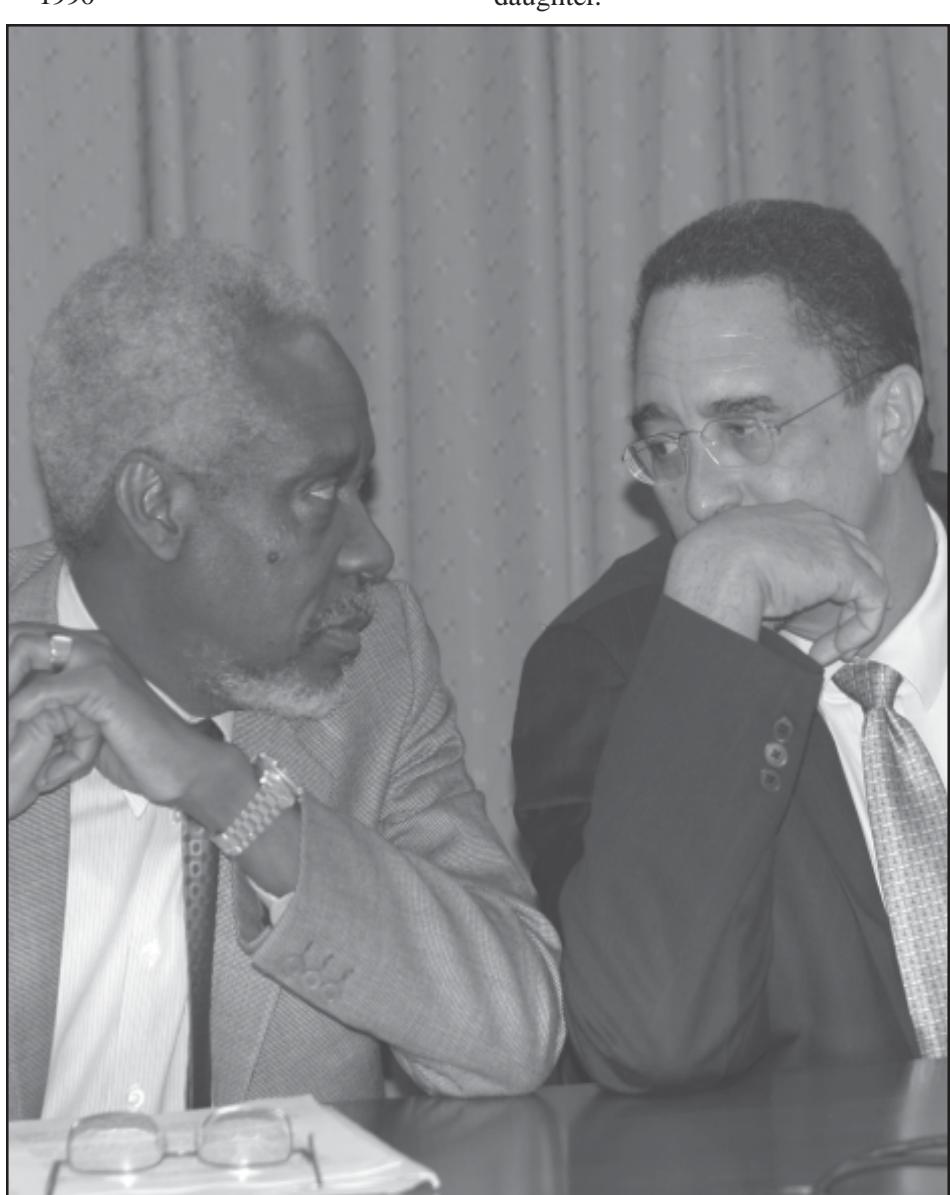
These include:

Honorary Doctor of Letters, North-eastern University, USA - 1994.

Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws, Brown University, USA - 1998

Mr. Patterson's Interests include Jazz, Jamaican music and such spectator sports as cricket, boxing, tennis and track and field.

He has a son, a daughter and a granddaughter.



P.J. Patterson and Dr. Kenny D. Anthony a Caricom meeting

Jalousie to Change Ownership and Expand

Prime Minister Dr Kenny D. Anthony has announced an impending change of ownership and expansion of the Jalousie Hilton resort in Soufriere.

In a statement to the House of Assembly on Tuesday, Prime Minister Anthony announced that after a series of

searches for an equity partner to invest in the hotel's operations to enhance its viability and expansion, the Kerzner International group of South Africa has indicated strong interest in investing in the hotel's operations.

Prime Minister Anthony recalled that the Government of St. Lucia in 1996 in-

vested US\$4 million in purchasing equity shares in Jalousie, a sum which increased later to US\$5 million.

He noted that the Government of St. Lucia, the Hilton chain and the M Group are the three major shareholders, but that the Kerzner and M Groups have indicated they intend to raise an estimated capital budget of between US\$45.5 million and US\$68.8 million for the hotel's recapitalization and room expansion.

According to the Prime Minister, the Hilton Group has agreed to sell its shares to the M Group for US\$4 and the M Group has offered to purchase the government's shares in Jalousie for US\$5 million.

Dr Anthony noted that the Jalousie hotel is now valued at US\$13.8 million and with current outstanding liabilities of US\$15.4 million, the Government of St. Lucia would stand to lose the entire US \$5 million invested in it if the company was sold as is.

The Prime Minister said it appeared that the offer to the government to recover the original price paid for its shares was the most viable option at this time.

Kerzner International, which would become the major shareholder under the

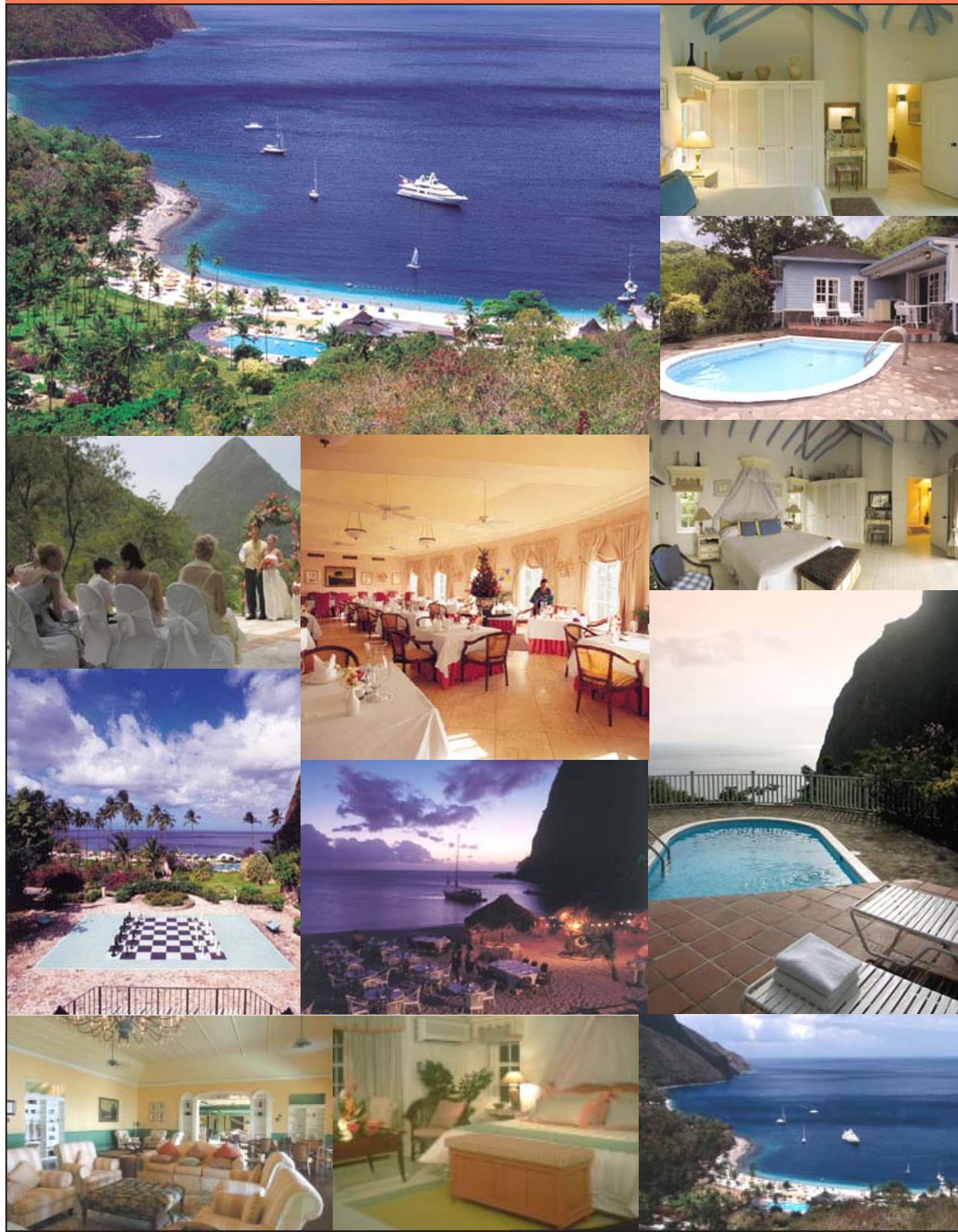
new arrangement, is well known in the international hospitality industry. The group operates under the "One and Only Resort" brand name and are owners and operators of the Atlantis Hotel & Casino in The Bahamas. The group also owns and operates the Sun International group of hotels in South Africa, Resorts International in Atlantic City and the One and Only Resorts in the Middle East.

It is the intention of the Kerzner Group to develop the Jalousie Hilton resort into the One and Only Jalousie Plantation, St. Lucia with vacation homes, fractional ownership properties and housing lots on the surrounding residential lands.

Prime Minister Anthony indicated that principals of the M Group and Kerzner International will be visiting the country shortly to engage government officials and others in discussions on the future of the hotel.

He further indicated that in due course, he expects to have more definitive information on the absolute dates of the change of ownership at Jalousie, the refurbishment of existing rooms and the construction of the new rooms.

The Tranquil Beauty of Jalousie



THIS WEEK ON NTN

June 28th – July 4th, 2004
Joseph "Reds" Perreira
Speaks with Former England
Striker Les Ferdinand
Monday June 28th – 8:00

p.m.

- **The GIS speaks with 3 Fishermen as they Commemorate Fishermen's Feast – Tuesday June 29th, 8:00 p.m.**
- **South Calypso Tent 2004 – Tuesday June 29th – 9:00 p.m.**
- **Special Interview with Dame Sessenne Descarte - Wed. June 30th, 8:00 p.m.**
- **Cuba Unfolding - Thurs. July 1st, 9:00 p.m.**
- **Triumph of A Saint Lucian Spirit – A Feature on Derek Walcott – Friday July 2nd, 7:10 p.m.**
- **Masquerade:– Saturday July 3rd , 7:10 p.m.**

Remember to tune in for:

- **GIS News Breaks and Kweyol News daily from 6:30 p.m.**
- **Issues & Answers/Mondays at 8:00pm:**
- **Interview/Tuesdays at 6:15pm**
- **Konsit Kweyol/Tuesdays at 8:00pm (Kweyol Discussion):**
- **Your Right to Know/**
- Thursdays at 6:15 p.m. (Min. of Ed. Prog).
- Take 2/Fridays at 6:15pm (Week in Review)**
- **Weflechi/Fridays at 6:40pm - (Week in Review—Kweyol)**

For the complete programme guide, log on to our website at www.stlucia.gov.lc and then click on the NTN icon.

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