



ST. LUCIA'S CALL TO THE WORLD

A coalition of the willing to end global poverty, illiteracy hunger and trade imbalance.



Prime Minister Hon. Dr. Kenny D. Anthony addressing the UN General Assembly

The call was loud and clear. "If a coalition of the willing could be assembled for war, then surely we can also gather a coalition of the willing to address the problems of poverty disease, illiteracy, hunger and trade imbalance," This was the charge the Prime Minister of St. Lucia Hon. Dr. Kenny D. Anthony gave to the members of the United Nations General Assembly as he addressed the fifty-eighth session of the organisation on September 25th 2003.

Prime Minister Anthony said there can be no sanitizing of one corner of the globe while despair, contagion and desperation fester elsewhere.

Dr. Anthony also warned that the UN's 2000 Millennium Declaration goal of halving global poverty "is receding into nothingness" and can only be rescued if developed countries make good on their pledges.

"Moreover, we might challenge ourselves beyond merely halving global poverty, by aspiring to its virtual elimination," he added. He stressed that national security and international stability can only be realized where there is justice.

St Lucia believes it's time for the United Nations Security Council to be made more democratic and transparent in order to reflect the realities of the 21st Century.

See page 2 for the address.



Prime Minister Dr. Kenny D. Anthony poses with some members of the President's Cabinet. left to right - Gian Dean (Research Associate), LornaMc. Laren(Research Coordinator), H.E Missouri Sherman-Peter (Chef de Cabinet), Hon. Dr. Kenny D. Anthony Prime Minister of St. Lucia), H.E Julian R. Hunte (President of the 58th UN General Assembly, Michele Joseph (Decolonisation Affairs), Mr. Kenneth Jordan (Coordinator, Political and Security Affairs, H.E Sonia Leonce Caryl (Deputy Chef de Cabinet).

EDITORIAL

ADIEU, GEORGE! ADIEU, BRIAN!

With George Odlum's recent passing, a colourful and eventful chapter in St Lucia's modern history has ended. Ironically, the former Foreign Minister's death occurred hours before that of his friend, former Police Commissioner, Brian Bernard, who retired just months ago. Odlum had been terminally ill. Bernard's death, however, was a surprise.

Odlum's passing is not just a loss for St Lucia but the entire Caribbean. For Brother George, as he was affectionately known, was a true Caribbean patriot. He reached out to St Lucia's neighbours and eloquently championed their cause in the struggle for development.

As the Caribbean was emerging in the 70s from an exploitative colonial experience, he and other regional intellectuals - a few went on to become heads of government - joined forces to present a nationalist agenda offering the region an alternative path to development.

It was a model that placed the interests of the region and its people first. As an alternative to economic dependence, a legacy of the colonial experience, it promoted self-reliance through the spirit of regional unity and cooperation.

Odlum's vision extended beyond the narrow confines of the English-speaking Caribbean. He embraced Cuba, for example, at a time when it wasn't fashionable to do so. The fact that Cuba today is formally reintegrated into the Caribbean family can be attributed to the groundwork laid by people like Odlum.

Odlum's 30-odd years of public service was chequered because of his many disagreements with opponents and former comrades. However, no one denies his commitment to the betterment of St Lucia, especially the poor and underprivileged, once there's acknowledgement that such disagreements were rooted largely in differences over how to get to a common destination called the 'promised land'.

George Odlum was laid to rest on October 6th, and Brian Bernard on October 7th 2003, with official honours.



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# ST. LUCIA'S CALL TO THE WORLD

**"It is neither pride nor the prospect of privilege that moves us to assume the Presidency of the United Nations General Assembly, but a certain determination, which is the unspoken strength of islands. Nor is it merely that we are honoured, though indeed we are, but that we also feel worthy; as worthy as any other member of this community, and as determined to make our contribution to the progress of humanity and the welfare of the world. Saint Lucia recognizes and appreciates that this Presidency only became a reality with the support of the Latin American and Caribbean family.**

Our preoccupation is not with size, sovereignty, or power, but with people, and by this measure we are not small, nor are we just an island, for we do not stand alone. We stand as one member of this organization, proud of the legacy and the vision that we can offer the world. We assume this role because we wish to offer that vision to the world; because it is larger than our 238 square miles and larger than our population of 159,000 people. It is a vision we wish to place at the service of humanity.

It is our hope that St. Lucia's Presidency will offer a fresh perspective, an alternative view, and a different but not discordant voice to the heart of this assembly. As such, the people and Government of Saint Lucia express both their appreciation and their determination to you the members of this international community. Appreciation for the faith and trust bestowed upon us with the presidency of this institution, and determination that we shall not fail you, but be judged equal to the task before us. If it is a task of Herculean proportion, then we will face it with equal confidence, certain that the rebuilding of our broken humanity is a matter, which we encounter in the company of equally resolute and undaunted partners.

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## Credibility

Since the end of the Cold War, the legitimacy, credibility and relevance of this time-honoured institution have never been so questioned as they are today. The United Nations Millennium Declaration was designed to resuscitate the dying pulse of our humanity, but has itself become comatose. Indeed, Secretary General Kofi Annan was moved to state that "it is uncertain whether the consensus and the vision that the Millennium Declaration expressed are still intact." Saint Lucia therefore calls on the international community to heed the appeal of our esteemed Secretary General to seek balance between the imperatives of military security and human security. In the interest of redistributive justice, global peace and security, the developed countries must not

## STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER OF ST. LUCIA HON. DR. KENNY D. ANTHONY TO THE 58TH UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

renege on their commitments to the developing world in the areas of trade, debt relief and aid.

The Millennium Declaration goals of halving global poverty is receding into "nothingness", but can be rescued if only developed countries make good on their pledges. Moreover, we might challenge ourselves beyond merely halving global poverty, by aspiring to its virtual elimination. By now, it should be clear to us all that poverty issues are inseparable from human rights issues, as are environmental issues from economic and political development issues. National security and international stability can only be realized where there is justice.



*Barbados Prime Minister Owen Arthur chats to Dr. Anthony during a break at the UN General Assembly*

## Rupture

It was the prophet Isaiah who reminded us that if mankind is brought low, everyone will be humbled. Yet if we, the international community, retreat from the ideals of the creation of a greater humanity, we would also be retreating from the core values and principles enshrined within the United Nations Charter. More importantly, we would be tacitly endorsing the return and consolidation of a global uncivil society -

the symptoms of which are already manifest within our global society. Religious intolerance, tribal aggression, and civil war continue to ravage many parts of our planet. Among the victims are the poor, the marginalized and the vulnerable; often women and children, who play no part in the making of war but find themselves stripped of their human dignity and basic human rights. Terrorist attacks in Bali, Kenya, Saudi Arabia and Baghdad add to our symptoms of impending rupture.

Mr. President, the arteries of conscience are becoming hardened by the frequency of wanton violence yet on occasion, there are incidents that shock our sensibilities. The murder of Sergio Viera de Mello and other UN Colleagues reminds us of the mindless horror at the heart of that

darkness. St. Lucia joins the international community in expressing sympathy to their families, and we reiterate our profound respect to those international workers who are so willing to make the ultimate sacrifice to extend humanitarian assistance, security and comfort to those in peril and in need.

## UN System

In this environment, it is essential that we maintain a United Nations which steadfastly adheres to its original core values. Saint Lucia will resist any attempt to delegitimize the United Nations system. Any strategy, which claims to embrace peace, security, and justice and yet excludes the United Nations, belies a flawed and unreal conception of world affairs. This organization has been instrumental in the preservation of the nation-state within a framework of binding relationships among governments. More importantly, the United Nations has been a devoted guardian of individual rights and freedoms. Saint Lucia maintains that the United Nations, precisely because of its diversity, is the only organization with the political and moral legitimacy to deal adequately with global issues.

Mr. President, this universal body, this United Nations, has no other choice but to heed the lessons of the past and the wisdom of the ages in its attempt to better serve humanity. When our predecessor organization, the League of Nations, was discarded as irrelevant, we witnessed the advance of disorder and human catastrophe on a scale never before envisioned. If we stand idly by now, while this time-honoured institution is rendered irrelevant and toothless, we will have commissioned an epitaph for our humanity.

## Reform

Saint Lucia therefore calls for the completion of the efforts at reforming the United Nations Security Council to better reflect the realities of this new century and to make it more representative, more democratic, legitimate and transparent. The existing veto system is too easily influenced by national interests to address serious issues afflicting humankind. If "A Coalition of the Willing" could be

assembled for war, then surely, we can also gather "A Coalition of the Willing" to address the problems of poverty, disease, illiteracy, hunger and trade imbalances. There can be no sanitizing of one corner of the globe while contagion, despair and desperation fester elsewhere. There is no security for the one while insecurity plagues the other.

But ultimately the strength of the United Nations must come from the political will of the member states - a political will that must accept that everyone should adhere to, abide by, and implement all the decisions of, and resolutions adopted by the organization. We cannot, in the name of national interest, observe only some resolutions, and expect to have a strong United Nations.

The United Nations cannot be strengthened if we do not have the political will to accept that its activities cannot be dictated by the agendas of a few powerful states, but must embrace, in equal measure, the concerns of the small and the weak that are the majority of its members. No single state, by virtue of its economic and military might, should determine, on its own, the obligations and responsibilities of the rest of humanity.

## Pluralism

Mr. President, "muscular unilateralism" and the emerging doctrine of "diplomatic unilateralism" cannot be the preferred approach to serious global issues. "Exceptionalism" within the international system is certain to fragment international cooperation, making it less likely that countries will forego aspects of national sovereignty in the interest of the common good.

It has become abundantly clear that the international community will not succeed in its war against terrorism, if it fails to address root causes. The current war on terrorism is designed to capture, confine or eliminate existing terrorist webs without addressing the causes of terrorism. Terrorism does not simply stem from the arrogance and madness of a few dictators and misguided fanatics - it is also the result

*cont'd on page 3*



*UN Delegates queue to congratulate Dr. Anthony after his presentation.*

# ST. LUCIA'S CALL TO THE WORLD

from page 2

**“Saint Lucia reiterates the need for reform of the system of global economic governance so as to allow for fair trade and special and differential treatment for developing countries”**

of deep-seated inequity, and sometimes, bigotry. If the status quo denies opportunity, freedom and fulfillment to those who hunger and dwell in despair, the appeal of chaos and extremism as an avenue to change becomes that much more attractive. If on the other hand, we perceive that the world order works in all our interests then there will be universal commitment to sustain that order. Consequently, it is imperative that the international community jointly address economic injustice and political exclusion as common enemies of us all.

## Revitalisation

Mr. President, your assumption of the Presidency of this institution at this time, as a representative of a small island developing state and one of the smallest members of the United Nations, is both a tribute to the democratic principles of the United Nations and also a signal of the need to conclude the process of revitalizing the work of the General Assembly. We must conquer delay, procrastination, repetition and inaction.

Many years have passed since deliberations on reform of the Security Council began; and yet there is no end in sight. Consultations on the revitalization of the General Assembly first began thirteen years ago and in this instance too, there is no end in sight.

For some reason, the UN seems to enjoy operating in decades. We create decades for our programmes, and when we fail to take action in a particular decade, we simply declare another decade; and the cycle continues, for decades! This body can no longer afford the luxury of the “decade syndrome” - compounded as it is by bureaucratic operations bound by tradition and habit.

We must be extremely proactive on the question of revitalization of the General Assembly. St. Lucia therefore wishes to propose that during this session, we review all the resolutions before us, and determine those that need to be consigned to the record books and those that merit the continued attention of the Assembly. We need to restructure the time frame as well as the working methods of the Assembly and its main committees, so as to make more productive use of an entire year rather than engaging in a three-month frenzy of activities. Further, we should consider making the agendas of the Main Committees and the Plenary more relevant



**Prime Minister of St. Lucia Hon. Dr. Kenny Anthony and Ambassador to the United Nations H.E. Mr. Anthony Severin hold bilateral discussions with the Ambassador of Costa Rica H.E. Bruno Stagno Ugarte.**

to the general debate. It is our view that these should flow from the themes enunciated at the general debate.

## Governance

The UN must not compromise its role in global economic governance and development. St. Lucia calls for members to resist attempts to dilute the development agenda through the cuts and freezes of regular and core budget allocations.

Saint Lucia reiterates the need for reform of the system of global economic governance so as to allow for fair trade and special and differential treatment for developing countries. The current global governance system has failed many small states by eliminating commodity protocols, and the quota and price preferences that sustain small economies. Unfortunately, these have been replaced by the conspicuous indifference of neo-liberal economic practice. This has contributed to the decimation of many Caribbean economies. It is Saint Lucia's earnest plea that the distortions in farm trade which are so prevalent yet conspicuously avoided would be treated in a manner reflective of the redistributive priorities of this organization. We are therefore determined that a more inclusive and transparent global governance system should hold as sacred, the goals and aspirations of those of us in the developing world who strive against all odds.

## Decolonisation

Mr. President, some of the most vulnerable countries in the world today are some of the territories that are on the UN's list of non-self governing territories. These countries, the majority of which are small island states in the Caribbean and the Pacific are yet to exercise the right to self-determination. In the words of the Secretary General, it is time for the United Nations to bring to a close this colonial chapter of history.

We therefore welcome the cooperation that the Special Committee of 24 on Decolonization has recently been receiving from the Administering Powers of these territories and the advances that have consequently been made in the work of the Committee. We further welcome the negotiations that have just begun, for the first time, between the Special Committee and the United Kingdom on the process of decolonization in the Caribbean. We look forward to continued cooperation with the Administering Powers so that the goal of self-determination for all these territories can be achieved in less than a decade.

## Presidency

We believe that this Presidency is both symbolic and strategic. Not just for ourselves but for this organization and the renovation of its development agenda. That a small developing country should aspire

to and attain such high office is a testament to the magnanimity of this noble institution. It is an opportunity to demonstrate that global equity and universal democracy remain meaningful constructs of the world community.

Our voice can be ignored or it can be heeded. But it will not be silenced. The choice of an appropriate response rests with this community. Our presence here however, is a manifestation of our belief that our humanity demands conscious renewal - renewal that would guarantee that the international community resists war, remembers the poor and is prepared to give tangible meaning to the charter to which we all subscribe as responsible members of the world community.

But, there can be no renewal, if faith in the United Nations system is not also restored and retained. The United Nations must remain as the moral epicenter of world politics. Any re-conceptualization of the architecture of global governance to the exclusion of the United Nations will leave the world weaker, more divided, vulnerable and less secure. This cannot and should not be our legacy to future generations who will judge us not by our words or espoused principles, but by the actions we employ to render this world fit for human habitation.

I thank you.”

**“We welcome the negotiations between the Special Committee and the United Kingdom on the process of decolonization in the Caribbean. We look forward to continued cooperation with the Administering Powers so that the goal of self-determination for all these territories can be achieved in less than a decade”.**

# BIG INVESTMENT IN BANANA AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION WILL INCREASE

For as long as anyone who's been connected with growing bananas in St Lucia can remember, the industry's export earning potential has always been handicapped by one particular problem, an inconsistency of supply to the UK market, especially at times when prices are at their best!

It's a problem stemming basically from two factors: the seasonal pattern of rainfall which influences production levels, and the absence of irrigation infrastructure to provide banana fields with an adequate supply of water during the dry season when the drop in output usually occurs.

"In the dry season when production declines, the market price in the UK goes up but we don't have enough bananas to export," explains Bertram Clarke, Executive Officer of the Banana Industry Trust. "But in the winter months when we get the rain and banana production goes up, the prices on the UK market are low."

This perennial problem has obviously caused individual farmers and the economy as a whole to miss out on millions of dollars in potential revenue over the years. But at long last, there's good news: thanks to another initiative on a long list of government support measures for bananas in the last six years, the industry will finally be in a position from next year to start licking the problem.

If you take a trip right now down to Cul-de-Sac, you'll see an elaborate irrigation system taking shape to support farmers in the area.

A similar project has been virtually completed in Canelles and another is also underway in the Roseau valley. It's expected that during the first quarter of 2004, a total of 111 farms in these three high-yielding banana regions will be hooked up and the systems will be up and running.

This EC\$21.7 million European Union-funded project, being implemented in two phases by the Banana Industry Trust, forms part of a comprehensive banana redevelopment strategy by the six-year-old Labour Government. The aim is to revitalize and reposition St Lucian bananas to hold their own on the export market in this competitive era of trade liberalization.

## \$10.2 million for Phase One

Phase one of the irrigation project, involving an EU allocation of \$10.2 million, has two components: off-farm and on-farm. The off-farm component included construction of an in-take dam and a 54,000 cubic metre reservoir in Cul-de-Sac, the laying of pipes, and other related works.

The on-farm component, being financed with loans to farmers from the Government's Banana Emergency Recovery Unit (BERU), involves hooking up individual farms to the

off-farm system. The supply of irrigation to farmers in the three areas under phase one represents an investment of \$55,000 per farm.

During phase two which is expected to get underway shortly with an allocation of \$11.5 million, a 75,600 cubic metre reservoir will be built in the Roseau Valley and the irrigation system will be expanded to benefit more farmers. Major drainage works in Cul-de-Sac and Roseau are also planned.

"Irrigation is very critical to the recovery of the banana industry," says Clarke, "but you've got to be practical. Irrigation is not going to be the solution to the problem. It's only a facilitator because it's the farmer who really has the future of the industry in his hands."

It's a point that Clarke, who got to know the banana industry very well during his long career as a banker, also emphasized when he addressed the Annual General Meeting of the St Lucia Banana Corporation on September 11.

"We can give you all the inputs, all the facilities, all the support, all the advice, all the training but it's your contribution, your dedication, your commitment, your love for the industry that will make the difference," he said.



**Bertram Clarke, Executive Officer of the Banana Industry Trust.**

**"Irrigation is very critical to the recovery of the banana industry..."**

"We will like to see significant increases in your yields but that is only possible if you work to achieve it by using the irrigation systems which the EU has funded through the Trust, together with your good husbandry practices, which you know are necessary for better yields."

## Timely Intervention in 2000-2001

Farmers in the Mabouya Valley, the other high yielding banana-growing region on the island and Troumasse were the first to receive irrigation systems from the Banana Industry Trust. This was during 2000-2001, a timely intervention that spared both areas from being hard hit by the drought of 2001 which pushed down banana output to the lowest level in history.

The provision of irrigation systems has been the Banana Industry Trust's major contribution so far to the sector's recovery since its establishment initially as the PRP (Production Recovery Plan) Unit in 1999.

The PRP unit was later transformed into the Banana Industry Trust, with its main purpose being to serve a



**In-take Dam: part of the irrigation infrastructure in Cul-de-Sac**

# IRRIGATION CASE



**On-Farm Connection: Hook-up will deliver water to farm.**

**Phase one included the installation of an irrigation infrastructure of 77 acres in Canelles, an irrigation infrastructure of 440 acres in Cul-de-Sac, an irrigation infrastructure of 180 acres in Roseau, the building of the Cul-de-Sac reservoir, and drainage of 200 acres of banana lands in the Mabouya Valley.**

An independent body for managing the EU financing package of 10.2 million assigned to phase one of the so-called Banana Commercialization Programme.

Phase one included the installation of an irrigation infrastructure of 77 acres in Canelles, an irrigation infrastructure of 440 acres in Cul-de-Sac, an irrigation infrastructure of 180 acres in Roseau, the building of the Cul-de-Sac reservoir, and drainage of 200 acres of banana lands in the Mabouya Valley.

Phase two, getting underway soon, includes the drainage of some 350 acres in the Roseau Valley, construction of the 75,600 cubic metre reservoir in that region, the supply and installation of equipment for an additional 200 acres of off-farm irrigation infrastructure in Roseau, and the drainage of 440 acres in Cul-de-Sac.

"The overall cost of the irrigation systems alone on completion will be about \$15.6 million for the 48 farms in the three areas," Clarke told the LBC AGM last month. "This will work out at a \$105,000 investment for each farm. The overall costs including the drainage will be about \$17.5 million."

The newly established Irrigation Management Unit in the Ministry of Agriculture will manage the facilities for farmers in the three regions for two years. After that, the farmers are expected to take over the management themselves.

***"We can give you all the inputs, all the facilities, all the support, all the advice, all the training but it's your contribution, your dedication, your commitment, your love for the industry that will make the difference."***

Sad to say, the irrigation infrastructure especially in Cul-de-Sac has already fallen victim to vandalism. There was a recent break-in at the Cul-de-Sac reservoir site, and irrigation fixtures and galvanized sheets were stolen. The Banana Industry Trust is asking farmers to be on their guard and to report any criminal activity to the authorities.

The Trust has intervened in other critical areas to support the revival of bananas. In 1999, for example, it channeled \$12 million in loans to farmers under the Production Recovery Plan which was aimed at shoring up declining output. This programme fell short of expectations and farmers still owe the Trust some \$9 million.

After the severe drought of 2001, the Trust was used to channel over \$1.5 million in loans to some 800 farmers in designated high-yielding areas with access to irrigation. The funds were used to purchase inputs, and to replant and rehabilitate fields to get production moving again. Thanks to the cooperation of the banana companies, it's been a successful initiative and virtually all the initial loans have been repaid.

In another major intervention between 2000 and 2001, the Trust advanced \$1.2 million to the Ministry of Agriculture to finance spraying of farms to combat the dreaded leaf spot disease.



**Who's who: billboard listing project's key players.**

# AFTER THE CANCUN TRADE TALKS

## SENATOR CALIXTE GEORGE REFLECTS ON 'SPECIAL AND DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT' AND THE OTHER ISSUES



**Minister for Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries  
Senator Hon. Calixte George**

When Agriculture Minister, Senator Hon. Calixte George, flew to Mexico a fortnight ago to attend the 5<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO), he went with one overriding expectation of the outcome.

As St Lucia's principal representative to these high-level talks, Senator George wanted to see achievement of meaningful progress on the so-called Doha Development Agenda (DDA), a blueprint for arriving at a new multilateral trade agreement by January 1, 2005.

The DDA came out of the 4<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Conference held two years ago in Doha, the capital of the Gulf state of Qatar.

After their concerns were pretty much sidelined in previous negotiations, the DDA represented a victory of sorts for developing countries. It placed their needs and interests at the heart of the negotiating process, following commitments by the leading developed nations that allowances would be permitted for developing countries vulnerable to free trade.

### Fundamental Differences

But when Senator George and the small four-member St Lucia delegation got into the meeting room, it was far from what they expected. The issues they had come to discuss had receded into the background. And a determined bid was on to introduce issues that emphasized the interests of developed countries.

Not surprisingly, fundamental differences emerged between developed and developing countries over which issues should receive priority. The Doha issues? Or the so-called Singapore issues seeking to open up things like government procurement to international bidding? The meeting eventually collapsed before

meaningful progress could be achieved on the substantive issues.

"We were disappointed," Senator George told *Nationwide* shortly after returning home. "What we were supposed to do at Cancun was to look at the Doha declaration to see whether the development issues that had been expounded, were in fact being taken care of. What we found was that this was not the case..."

For a small developing country whose banana-dependent economy has taken a severe battering from trade liberalization, the Doha blueprint for arriving at an equitable global trade agreement naturally offered St Lucia hope. What was particularly encouraging about the Doha process was that it began by accepting the argument that trade preferences are necessary for small countries to participate in some aspects of global trade.



**Preferential treatment and subsidies for agricultural products continue to be agenda items at all global trade talks.**

In fact, temporarily exempting European Union (EU) trade preferences for African Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) exports from the WTO's free trade rules was a major decision coming out of the Doha ministerial conference. This waiver until December 2007 applies to bananas and other traditional ACP commodities exported to EU countries under the Cotonou Agreement.

"It is critically important for the weakest and most vulnerable members, such as small island developing states (SIDS) and LDCs (less developed countries), to receive trade preferences which enable them to export successfully or specific effective safeguards to allow them to maintain and develop their domestic production capacity," Senator George told the Cancun meeting.

It's a position St Lucia and the rest of the Caribbean has championed all along – that the small size of their economies inherently prevents them from competing effectively with larger producers on the so-called 'level playing field' of international free trade. What has happened to the island's banana industry following the advent of global trade liberalization in the middle of the 1990s certainly bolsters the point.

### Bananas and Preferences

As the principal export industry of St Lucia and the other Windward Islands, bananas did reasonably well for the individual farmer and economy as a whole when longstanding European preferences, dating from the colonial period, allowed access to the British market at a guaranteed price.

However, following the 1995 establishment of the WTO, the acceleration of trade liberalization and a United States decision to challenge the EU's preferences on behalf

against us. The structural and capacity constraints which we face are tantamount to being permanently disabled," Senator George told the Cancun meeting.

### Small Countries Dissatisfied

"Yet we are expected to participate in a system and to adhere to and abide by rules designed for those much better endowed," he added. "It is like a one-legged man being asked to run a race with Olympic sprinters. He obviously does not stand a chance without special measures to take account of his disability."

St Lucia's delegations to WTO and other international trade meetings are usually led by External Affairs and International Trade Minister, Senator Hon. Julian R. Hunte. However, as the Cancun meeting coincided with Senator Hunte assuming the presidency of the current 58<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly, Senator George took over as leader of the St Lucian team.

Despite the commitments given at Doha two years ago, St Lucia and other small states belonging to the WTO were not satisfied up to the Cancun meeting that

of its Latin America-based banana interests, the industry has taken a downturn. Adjustments to the market have destabilized prices, fuelled uncertainty and undermined the confidence of farmers.

Contending that its level of production is too small to have any real distorting effect on the global banana trade, St Lucia made a strong case, before the Cancun meeting, for the WTO to extend 'special and differential treatment' which includes a retention of the banana preferences in some form. It's a position the rest of the Caribbean and ACP group are also espousing, particularly with respect to traditional exports.

"Micro-states like mine find ourselves being expected to participate in a multilateral trading system that is inherently stacked

their needs and concerns had been "adequately and systematically addressed" in the current negotiations for a new global trade accord. There seems to be a ray of hope, however.

It stems from the outcome of the Cancun meeting which some commentators are describing as "a turning point" in the increasingly contentious globalization debate. It was the unity and solidarity of developing countries that effectively blocked a take-over of the meeting's agenda by developed country interests.

"For the first time in decades of globalization negotiations, democracy triumphed over narrow elite interests," was how two *Baltimore Sun* commentators put it. "In short, the many derailed a trade agenda for the few." (cont'd on page 8)

# LESSONS IN LAW ON LOCAL TELEVISION

**You've probably heard it said, somewhere, at some time, that "ignorance of the law is no excuse".**

**The statement implicitly speaks of an obligation on the part of every citizen to get to know what he or she can, and cannot do, within the confines of the law. Few citizens bother to do so, however, and for various reasons.**

**To begin with, the average person finds the law, or more specifically the language of the law, to be quite confusing. Even intimidating at times. To the extent that it can be a real turn-off to learning.**



**Public education on the role and function of the magistrate's court will be enhanced.**

Still, having a basic knowledge of the law is useful. The law affects every aspect of our lives and the cornerstone of every modern society is respect for the rule of law.

The good news is that St. Lucians, who are interested in obtaining a basic informal education in the law, could achieve that goal in a matter of months. It's an opportunity being made available through an unprecedented public service initiative being spearheaded by the Office of the Attorney General.

## **"On a Point of Law"**

The AG's Chambers has teamed up with the legal fraternity, with support from the OECS/CIDA Judicial and Legal Reform Project, to come up with "On a Point of Law", a series of a dozen, 30-minute TV programmes exploring fundamental aspects of the law.

The series debuted on local television this month and is continuing every week for the next three months. It offers lively, informative, and thought-provoking discussion on various legal topics, with the aim of simplifying complex issues for the benefit of the man-in-the-street.

"... It's likely to be unlike anything else that will be on television," says Crown Counsel David Cox, who will alternate with colleague, Mrs. Georges Taylor-Alexander, to host the series. Local video production company, Visual Domain, is the providing technical services.

Noting there exists "a great deal of ignorance, misunderstanding and frustration" in the society about how the

legal system works; Cox says the series represents an attempt "to demystify the legal system".

Another objective of the so-called 'OPOL' series is to make the average citizen aware of his or her constitutional and legal rights. The brainchild of Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, Senator Hon. Petrus Compton, 'On a Point of Law' has taken roughly two years to evolve from original idea to finished product.

Topics that will be explored include the Constitution as the supreme law of the land, the constitutional role of the Governor-General, the law-making

process from the drafting of bills in the AG's Chambers to their approval in both houses of Parliament, the law and the media, and the proposed Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) which is soon to replace the Judicial Committee of the British Privy Council as the region's highest court.

"These are complex issues," Cox acknowledges. "We have made a deliberate effort to make the programme viewer-friendly, to stay away from legalese, legalisms..."

Viewers can also expect to gain valuable insight into a number of routine matters. For example, what's involved in the sale of land, writing a will or adopting a child. In each case, 'On a Point of Law' will highlight fundamental legal requirements which must be satisfied.

The series is certainly not meant to lead the public to believe that they no longer need the services of attorneys-at-law. Rather, by providing an understanding of certain fundamentals, the series is expected to equip citizens to ask the type of pertinent questions that will enable them to get the most out of a lawyer's services.

## **Buying and Selling Land.**

"The programme is not designed to tell an individual everything they need know about making a will, for example. Every segment is designed to give people enough information so that they have a basic idea," Cox explains.

"For example, if you're dealing with an issue like the buying and selling of land, every viewer, once they've watched that segment, will be able to understand what are the

various steps involved, what they need to bear in mind, what are some of the pitfalls, what questions they need to ask," he adds.

"(The series) is purely designed to give people enough information so that when they are faced with a particular situation, they are better informed and also know what questions to ask when they get their own solicitor."

The producers have deliberately gone for a magazine format, as opposed to the popular call-in format. It's to ensure that each programme sticks to the original focus. A call-in format, it was feared, was likely to cause the series to drift because some callers inevitably will raise issues not connected with the substantive topic at hand.

## **Special Profiles**

Viewers, nevertheless, will be welcome to have their say on the series and will be given a formal channel for doing so. During each programme, an email address will be shown on the TV screen so that interested viewers can submit any questions to the AG's office, seek clarification on any issue, or make general comments.

Under the format, each programme will be divided into a number of segments. For example, the largest slot of time — eight to 10 minutes — will be devoted to discussion of a substantive issue.

Another segment, roughly five minutes long, will place the spotlight on a

government department or institution connected with the law. There is also a six-minute segment featuring a legal personality.

Those down to appear include Governor-General, Her Excellency Dame Pearlette Louisy, who must sign every law to bring it into effect, and former Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. Sir John Compton, whose administration introduced the existing Constitution.

Prime Minister, Hon. Dr. Kenny D. Anthony, Hon. Justice Suzie d'Auvergne, and Queen's Counsel, Anthony McNamara, are among a list of participants down to discuss various issues. In the case of Dr. Anthony, a constitutional lawyer, he will take part in a discussion on the CCJ.

In the final scheduled segment, roughly three minutes of each programme will be devoted to a discussion of various rights and responsibilities of citizens.

The producers are hoping there will be a follow-up to the inaugural series. They also hope for repeats of the broadcasts on the National Television Network (NTN) following the completion of the first run.

"The long and short of it is that in 12 episodes, you're dealing with 36 substantive legal topics and persons," says Cox. "There's a lot of information which spans the entire legal system which will be useful and informative for viewers."

## **TEACHING VACANCY**

### **Micoud Secondary School has a vacancy for a Vice Principal.**

The successful applicant should have a Bachelor's Degree from a recognized university, experience in Educational Administration and, preferably, a Post Graduate Diploma or Degree in Educational Administration or IOB Executive Diploma; and teaching and/or administrative experience at a secondary school.

The main duties of the Vice Principal include:

- working in collaboration with the Principal and the Ministry of Education, Human Resource Development, Youth & Sports;
- being responsible for time-tabling and class organization;
- enforcing discipline and ensuring that all students follow their programme of work;
- assisting the Principal generally with administrative duties;
- taking charge of the school in the absence of the Principal;
- ensuring the acquisition of instructional materials for Heads of Department at the school.
- Performing such other duties as may be requested by the Principal, Chief Education Officer or Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, Human Resource Development, Youth & Sports.

Salary will be in the range of \$46,366.71 - \$49,266.06 per annum (Grade 14-15)

Applications should be accompanied by relevant documents/transcripts from the relevant institutions, as well as two confidential testimonials, one of which should be from the applicant's immediate supervisor.

Applications must be on prescribed forms obtainable from the Secretary, Teaching Service Commission, and sent no later than **October 24, 2003** to:

The Secretary  
Teaching Service Commission  
Stanislaus James Building  
The Waterfront  
Castries.

# CANCUN TRADE TALKS

from page 6

Reforming trade-distorting agricultural subsidies, which the leading free trade-espousing countries pay their farmers, was supposed to be a major talking point in Cancun. Developing countries which are agricultural exporters are contending that this heavy subsidization of domestic agriculture by some developed countries amounts to unfair competition for markets.

However, it was failure to agree on how to proceed with the so-called "Singapore issues" dealing with investment, competition policy, and transparency in government procurement and trade facilitation, which led to collapse of the Cancun talks.

"The chair brought these issues and expected us to start negotiations when in fact we had not even cleared the modalities by which we were to negotiate," explained Senator George, who proved himself as an effective negotiator during the talks on OECS telecommunications liberalization with Cable & Wireless.

"It is at that point," he added, "that there was great divergence of views and we could not go forward with the other issues on the agenda."

*"It is critically important for the weakest and most vulnerable members ... to receive trade preferences which enable them to export successfully."*

The WTO is planning a follow-up meeting in Geneva in December in a bid to pick up the pieces from Cancun and put the Doha negotiations back on track. Determined to have a say in shaping the best possible deal for itself and other developing countries, St Lucia is reassessing its position in the meantime.

"We are going back to the drawing board to analyze a lot of the situations that we were exposed to in Cancun," said Senator George. "We will look at them from a different perspective to see to what extent we can improve our capabilities in presentation (of the issues)."



Sen. Hon. Julian R. Hunte Minister of External Affairs, International Trade and Civil Aviation of St. Lucia presiding over the 58th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. Sen. Hunte is flanked by the UN Secretary General Kofi Annan on his left and Under-Secretary Mr. Chen Jian to his right. Full action on the Millennium Development Goals is a top priority for the president (see list below)

## THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

### 1) Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger:

- Reduce by half the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day.
- Reduce by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.

### 2) Achieve Universal Primary Education:

- Ensure that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary schooling.

### 3) Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women:

- Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005, and at all levels by 2015.

### 4) Reduce Child Mortality:

- Reduce by two thirds the mortality rate among children under five.

### 5) Improve Maternal Health:

- Reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio.

### 6) Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other Diseases:

- Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS.
- Halt and begin to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases.

### 7) Ensure Environmental Sustainability:

- Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes.
- Reverse loss of environmental resources
- Reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water.
- Achieve significant improvement in lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020.

### 8) Develop a Global Partnership for Development:

- Develop further an open trading and financial system that is rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory. Includes a commitment to good governance, development and poverty reduction—nationally and internationally.
- Address the least developed countries' special needs. This includes tariff- and quota-free access for their exports; enhanced debt relief for heavily indebted poor countries; cancellation of official bilateral debt; and more generous

official development assistance for countries committed to poverty reduction.

- Address the special needs of landlocked and small island developing states.
- Deal comprehensively with developing countries' debt problems through national and international measures to make debt sustainable in the long term.
- In cooperation with the developing countries, develop decent and productive work for youth.
- In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries.
- In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies—especially information and communications technologies.

## NOTICE

### SAINT LUCIA NATIONAL FLAG AND COAT OF ARMS

Due to concern over the various representations of the National Flag on souvenir items and other memorabilia, and the need for standardization of such items, permission should be sought from the Office of the Prime Minister before the importation of all souvenir items bearing the Coat of Arms and Flag of Saint Lucia.

This request is in accordance with Clause 15 of the Third Schedule Part II (Restricted Imports) of the Customs (Control and Management) Act No. 23 of 1990.

The official colours, proportions and dimensions of the Saint Lucia National Flag are given as follows:

**Colours of the Saint Lucia National Flag:** Cerulean Blue (Process Cyan 100%), Light Chrome Yellow, Black, White.

**Proportions of the Saint Lucia National Flag:** Width of white part of triangle – 1 ½ inches on both sides of the black; Distance between peaks of the black and white triangles – 4 inches; Length of common base shared by triangles – 1/3 of the full length of Flag.

**Dimensions of Saint Lucia National Flag:** Pole Flag - 6 feet x 3 feet; Hand Flag – 9 inches x 4 ½ inches; Desk Flag – 6 inches x 3 inches; Casket Flag – 11 feet x 5 ½ feet.

It is also recommended that the Coat of Arms, as the Official Seal of Government, should not be reproduced for commercial use or sale.

NEMO WEBSITE: [www.geocities.com/slunemo](http://www.geocities.com/slunemo)



### THIS WEEK ON NTN

Highlights:Week

October 27 - 31, 2003

**The Caribbean Broadcasting Union Awards**  
Friday at 9:00 pm.

Tune in Weekly For:

Regional News & Sports with GIS News Breaks and Kweyol News daily from 6:30 pm

Issues & Answers (Discussion Programme) Mondays at 8:00pm

Interview/Tuesdays at 6:15pm

Konsit Kweyol/Tuesdays at 6:15pm (Kweyol Discussion)

Your Right to Know/Thursdays at 6:15pm

Take 2/Fridays at 6:15pm (Week in Review - English)

Weflechi/Fridays at 6:40pm (Week in Review—Kweyol)

KiddiCrew.com/Saturdays at 9:30 am

For the complete programme guide, log on to our website at [www.stlucia.gov.lc](http://www.stlucia.gov.lc) and then click on the NTN icon.

[www.stlucia.gov.lc](http://www.stlucia.gov.lc)

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