



Jubilation

**Wishes came true for
Cricket World Cup 2007**



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St. Lucia Wins World Cup 2007 Semi Finals Bid



Bousejour Cricket Ground

St. Lucia bided for and won the Blue package, Cricket World Cup 2007 officials announced on Tuesday, July 13, 2004. This package, one of the best, according to the officials, includes one of two semi finals. The Blue package, which will be led by the English team comprises six first round matches and one semi-final.

The Bid committee deliberately bid for the Blue package, as it affords the greatest opportunity to attract the largest following to St. Lucia, which can translate to some 40,000 visitors and a large amount of foreign exchange within a short space of time.

When the Cricket World Cup comes to St. Lucia in 2007, it would mean heightened tourism activity and economic returns, said Tourism Minister Hon. Philip J. Pierre, who has announced that come next week, Cabinet would be looking at how the North of the island, which is the heart of tourism, could be further developed. The Minister has attributed St. Lucia’s successful bid to “planning, consistency and foresight.”

Executive Director of the St. Lucia Chamber of Commerce Brian Louisy, has in the meantime, challenged the local business community to “step up to the plate and review the way it currently operates.” Noting that a number of things may have to be altered, Mr.

Louisy added: “Some of the things we’ve done in the past, we cannot do them in the World Cup. I think the stringent promotional rules and laws for sponsors are very important. People must understand it’s not just the other big businesses you need to worry about. I think we really need to start to spread the word and start the process of training people to deliver for the World Cup.”

Chairman of the ICC Cricket World Cup W.I. 2007, Rawle Brancker, has advised Local Organizing Committees (LOCs), as well as cricket fans and supporters across the Caribbean to “let the brilliance of the Bid process now permeate every corner of the region, in a way that will convert the plans into permanent reality.” Delivering his speech at the Award of Matches’ Ceremony in Jamaica on Tuesday evening, the ICC Chairman added: “There was little time left, but enough to do the job.”

Commenting on the bidding process, Mr. Brancker described it as one of the fairest and most transparent process that they had ever employed. He said, “The Bid process also provided an opportunity for each of the bidding countries to fully utilize the wealth of intellectual resources resident in the region, to produce under intense pressure, some of the most impressive and remarkable bid of a quality befitting any country in the so called developed world.”

Country	Package	Matches awarded
Antigua and Barbuda	Red	3 of the largest Super Eight matches and 3 other Super Eight matches
Jamaica	Yellow	Opening Ceremony and Opening Game 1 semi-final, 6 first round matches
St. Lucia	Blue	1 semi-final and 6 first round matches (England team)
Barbados	Black	Final, 3 of the largest Super Eight matches and 3 other Super Eight matches
St. Kitts- Nevis	Orange	6 first round matches (Australia team)
Grenada	Green 1	6 Super Eight matches
Guyana	Green 2	6 Super Eight matches
Trinidad & Tobago	Brown	6 first round matches (India team)

PM’s Conversation with the Nation

The Spirit of Sir George

Hello St. Lucia,

Three Major Events

In the past two weeks, we have celebrated two world class achievements. First, there was the news, two Monday mornings ago, all the way from China, that we had won our bid to have our famous Pitons declared a World Heritage Site. Then, last Monday morning came the other good news that St. Lucia was selected by the International Cricket Council as a venue for the Cricket World Cup in 2007. And in the midst of it all, we said our final goodbye to one of our greatest sons, Sir George F.L. Charles.

The past fortnight has allowed us much time to reflect on the significance of these three major events. The discussions around the selection of the Beausejour Cricket Ground as a venue for world class cricket, is a timely reminder of the enormous responsibilities that lie ahead. It’s the same with the Pitons, which are now firmly placed on the world map, virtually adopted by mankind as a part of the world’s heritage. The Pitons will not only belong to us, but to the whole world.

So, amidst the joy, we had to contend with the sorrow of the passing of Sir George Charles.

“The Small Axe”

I grew up hearing about George Charles. The more I learned about him, the more I was fascinated by what people said about his simplicity and his humility. I heard stories of feats by this little man, who was called everything from “*Ti Jesi*” to “*Ti Hache*” – everything from “Little Jesus” to “The Small Axe”. Indeed, Sir George F.L. Charles was the small axe that began the process of cutting down the big tree that colonialism represented in his time.

There are times I think about him in a more personal way. On several occasions, I have indicated that I am a product of the Vieux Fort Senior Secondary School. That school opened its doors in 1964. It was funded by USAID and constructed by the government led by George Charles. In those days, there were only two secondary schools in St. Lucia – St Mary’s College and St. Joseph’s Convent. George Charles brought secondary education to the South of the island and made it possible for hundreds of young people to receive a secondary education. Indeed, I owe my secondary school education to the establishment of that school.

Too Many Still Don’t Know Enough...

The period following the death of Sir George has revealed that many of our young people still do not know enough about who George Charles was, and what he did for St. Lucia to enable us to enjoy the rights and freedoms now enshrined in our Constitution.

Father of Decolonialisation

It was Sir George who started and led our struggle against colonialism. It was he who began the fight to make St. Lucia a nation. It was he who led the struggle for us to get the right to vote for the government of our choice. He



Prime Minister Dr. Kenny D. Anthony

was elected as our first Chief Minister. He led the first political party in St. Lucia. And he it was, who led the introduction of the ministerial system of government in St. Lucia.

Faith in History

In all of the things I have heard from those who struggled with him, Sir George never behaved as if he was destined to lead. He never pretended that he was chosen by God to lead St. Lucia forever. He was never attracted to the trappings of office. Nor was he fazed by losses or betrayals. He toiled without rest, laboured without reward and remained steadfast through thick and thin. He never beat his own chest. Nor did he pound against those who sought to minimize his contribution. He had faith in history.

Sir George F.L. Charles left a legacy worthy of emulation. He distinguished between the Economic Struggle for better wages and working conditions and the Political Struggle to end colonization. He was truly the Father of Decolonisation.

There will always be efforts to diminish Sir George’s contribution. But it is our collective duty to always strive to keep his memory alive, to never let this and succeeding generations forget the huge contribution of that quiet, little man.

Let us not forget that the banana industry, introduced under his leadership, changed the economic landscape of this country forever. Bananas consolidated the formation of a viable class of farmers and workers from which so many have proudly sprung.

Let us not forget that it was under his banner that St. Lucia first experienced Universal Adult Suffrage and that his earliest assaults on the colonial apparatus included a resolution for the legal recognition of paid leave for workers. With that brave charge began the legacy he would bequeath to generations of working-class people in this country. Many pieces of labour legislation, enacted during his tenure, are still subsisting laws on our statute books.

Besides the right to paid holidays, these laws protected wages, legitimized trade unions and provided for the settlement of trade disputes. Such was his abiding concern for the rights of the poor and the dispossessed. No government since then has enacted such a wide platform of labour legislation. So, it is not by accident that we have arrived here. It is not by private wisdom or singular good fortune, but by the sacrifice and selflessness of good men in the mould of Sir George.

Sir George left us his memoirs. It is our duty to fill the gaps and complete the story of his life. Much has been written and much has been said. While he lived, tribute was paid through the naming of a community, a school and one of our airports after him. More recently, a foundation, the George Charles Foundation, was established in his name. This foundation, among other things, will document the formation, emergence and contribution of the labour movement to our development.

His Spirit Lives On...

Despite all these accomplishments, it is unbelievable that there would be

among us those who would not see the significance of a minute of silence for Sir George, who would say they didn’t know him or who would dare to suggest that his achievements were myths built around him by political admirers.

Sir George was a man loved and admired in his time. As was seen in the days before his burial, people of all walks of life turned out to pay their last respects to him. They saluted him on the Market Steps and they paid tribute to him in the House of Assembly. People of all walks of life attended his funeral: labourers, clerks, public servants, merchants, Government and Opposition supporters, trade unionists, workers — and supporters of both the UWP and the SLP. They came to see him off because, as Monsignor Anthony said at his State Funeral service, he was among the great men of Caribbean history who made his contribution to the development of our region.

When we buried Sir George last Wednesday afternoon, we laid a body to rest. But the spirit of this indomitable little man should live on in our hearts, in our minds and in our memories.

Many of our young people are being told that there’s no honour in politics and that all politicians are thieves and should not be trusted. I can only hope that the example of George Charles will be emulated by those who wish to make genuine contributions to the continuing struggle for the development of our country and the upliftment of our people.

Indeed, I know I speak on your behalf when I say: May the spirit of Sir George F.L. Charles rest in peace.

Peace in the Valley

A Tribute to Sir George F. L. Charles

by the
Prime Minister of St. Lucia Hon. Dr. Kenny D. Anthony



Sir George F.L. Charles at ceremony renaming Vigie Airport

“Be you content to lend your patience to us And we shall jointly labour with your soul To give it due content”
William Shakespeare: Hamlet, Act IV:Sc. 5

Death lends us pause; Visits us with both grief and wonderment; reminds us of our fleeting presence here and the eternity beyond.

Death lends us pause, to remember, to reflect; perchance even forget. And sometimes, forgetting is far easier. So, we let the noisy present fill the gaping spaces where in the past, our loved ones walked. In our own time, in our own way, we embrace the peace that comes with letting go. And, we move on.

But as a people, we cannot simply forget and move on. As a nation, we need to cherish those remembrances which have become our history. We need that foundation which is our collective memory of who we are; what we were; and whence we came. And in that remembering, we cannot let Sir George go peacefully into some dark night, pretending that his passing will not leave a void; pretending that the void he leaves will be filled by distractions of the present.

As a nation, we cannot afford the luxury of amnesia. Far, too often we forget how privileged we are to live in

an age where democracy prevails; where citizens rights are enshrined in a sacred constitution; where workers rights are enshrined in legislation. We forget that in our daily lives, the many things we take for granted now, were brought to us on the backs of those who went before; were won for us, with blood, sweat and tears.

We must pause therefore, if only during such ponderous moments as death provides, to acknowledge that the life we live today is not of only our making; to recognize that the peaceful valleys through which today we drive, were not always so tranquil. We must pause to concede that the prosperity all seek and many find, is not a thing that always was, but something prized from the clenched fist of our colonial past.

There was no peace in the valleys, when Sir George walked there in the 1950’s, defiant and determined that agricultural workers should receive a decent wage for the labour they provided. There was no peace when police bayonets were bared on Bridge Street, and thrust at the young trade unionist who would lead field workers to assert their rights, including the right to withdraw their labour.

There was no peace in 1945, when Sir George joined the wild-cat strike at Vigie Airport; the same strike that gave

birth to the notion of worker solidarity on this island. This seed, germinated in the protest, soon took root in the fertile soil of trade unionism, and blossomed into a full political movement. That movement crystallised into the St. Lucia Labour Party, the mother of all political parties in our country. It is from the breast of labour that all others have fed.

So far have we come, and so much have we forgotten, that most of us would not willingly conceive of any system of government where the right to vote is reserved unto the rich, the privileged, and the powerful land-owning few. But so it was, until the peace was won by valiant and brave men of the ilk of Sir George.

Yet, there could be no resting on laurels, while the

working class still faced discrimination and injustice. And so, by then an elected member of the first Legislative Council, he led a series of constitutional reforms, laying the ground for the full Ministerial System that we enjoy today. Thereafter began, this nation’s first tentative steps toward political independence; walking out of a colonial twilight into the dawn of Associated Statehood.

That a fledgling political party, founded on principles of social and economic equity could have so influenced and catalyzed fundamental political change is of itself, remarkable. It is as remarkable as the determined, understated, unselfish man, who championed the cause of the underprivileged.

Let us not forget him now. Let us not be ungracious or ungrateful. Let us not deny him his history. Let us not forget that the banana industry, introduced under his leadership, changed forever the economic landscape of this country, to consolidate the formation of a viable working class, from which so many of us have proudly sprung.

Let us not forget that it was under his heraldic banner that St. Lucia first experienced universal adult suffrage, and that his earliest assaults on the colonial apparatus included a resolution for the legal recognition of paid leave. With that brave charge, began the legacy he would bequeath to generations of working-class people in this country. Many pieces of labour legislation, enacted during his tenure, are still subsisting laws on our statute books.



Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Anthony presents gift to Sir George F.L. Charles

Besides the right to paid holidays, these laws protected wages, legitimised trade unions, and provided for the settlement of trade disputes. Such was his abiding concern for the rights of the poor and the dispossessed. No government since then has enacted such a wide platform of labour legislation. So, it is not by accident that we have arrived here. It is not by private wisdom or singular good fortune; but by the sacrifice

and selflessness of good men made in the mould of Sir George.

And how, you may ask should we best remember him? Not for vain rhetoric – although in his day, he was “Ti Hache”, his Party’s most formidable platform speaker. Nor do we remember him by any physical edifice on which he etched his own name. But we remember him by his contribution to the very institutions

of democratic society which we inhabit every waking day.

Like friends, we might see him again as “Ti Jézi”. Or, we might remember him, as his family would: a loving father - to his children as to this nation; a committed worker - in his constituency as in his places of formal employment; a leader of men; a man of principle; unstinting; unselfish; unfettered and undefeated by the deceptions of men.

Some will remember him as a lover of prose and music, who once lost his sight for a while, but never his vision. They will recall that there was not a spiteful bone in his body. Nor did he hold on to hatred; except perhaps in his abhorrence of dishonesty. Those were his burdens: honesty, humility, and a certain naivety which kept him sincere.

We should doubtless remember him, alongside other Caribbean visionaries; men like Grantley Adams, Norman Manley, Karl La Corbiniere, and T. A. Marryshow, with whom he shared the hope of one federated Caribbean nation.

We should remember him as that rare man unchanged by power; for he remained without pomp or guile, and needed no ceremony. Even as St. Lucia’s first Chief Minister, he did not put on any emperor’s clothes, for he possessed a moral authority which was his only garb. In the words of a son, speaking of his father:

*It was not a personal triumph to be Chief Minister...
It was the embodiment of a victory for the people of Saint Lucia.
He only regretted the limited vision of his successors.*

Finally, as we lay him to rest, we should remember him as that brave knight, Sir George, who lived to see peace in the valley; and who might say to us today:

*“If you did ever hold me in your heart Absent yourself from felicity awhile
And in this harsh world draw your breath in pain
To tell my story”*



Sir George F. L. Charles poses in full attire

Words of Praise for Government and People of St. Lucia

By

Errol Charles, son of the late Sir. George F.L. Charles

Indeed it is a very sombre moment for all of us and the family. I think however, that the consoling aspect of this entire exercise, the grief and all that we share today, is in fact cushioned by the very kind gestures we’ve been seeing for Sir George today.

The members of the public are really putting themselves out to have a good piece of the last of him. I am terribly excited about his last exposure on the Market steps this morning. It reminded me so very much as a child,

seeing daddy because we lived right across from the Castries Market, and seeing him in all his political meetings during and after Adult Suffrage. In fact, he considered the market steps his university, the University of the People of St. Lucia. I am happy that he is being honoured with this last departure

We are going to miss daddy very, very much and we are never going to forget what the Government and people of this country, by their utterances and writings have done; all seem to be consoling us.

Caribbean Leaders pay Tribute to Sir George

As Saint Lucia continues to mourn the passing of Sir George Frederick Lawrence Charles, the island’s first chief minister who was recently laid to rest, Caribbean leaders continue to pay respects and commendations for his work towards the wellbeing of the working class.

A message received from Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, Honourable Baldwin Spencer described the late Sir George as a “true pioneer of his time, whose substantial contribution to the political life of Saint Lucia and throughout the region serves as a reminder to us all, that men of his ability and influence are irreplaceable.”

According to Mr. Spencer, Sir George, who was instrumental in the formation of the Saint Lucia Labour Party always set high standards of public debate on national issues and will not be forgotten by his people.

Meanwhile commendation coming from Prime Minister of Jamaica, Hon. P.J. Patterson described Sir George as

a “giant of his generation.” He said that as a founding member of the Saint Lucia Labour Party and the first Chief Minister of Saint Lucia, and a leader of

the Trade Union Movement, his outstanding contributions to his nation and to the Caribbean region, in the promotion of democratic governance,

political and social development and the enhancement of the rights and welfare of the working classes, would endure in our member.



Governor General Dame Pearlette Louisy unveils burst of Sir George at the airport

Opposition Leader Lauds Government's Initiative

Opposition Leader and Parliamentary Representative for Dennery North, Honourable Marcus Nicholas has lauded the efforts of the Government and in particular, the Ministry of Social Transformation for undertaking to renovate a community centre in his constituency, at a cost of \$200,000. The communities of Gros Islet will also have a fully refurbish and renovated community centre, at the same cost.

At a signing ceremony in the Ministry for Social Transformation on Friday June 9th, 2004, Mr. Nicholas said that the availability of such a facility in Dennery North would augur well for the youth, stressing that it would serve as a deterrent for those who may be tempted to engage in unsociable activities. He added that developments like these also make a very positive impact, particularly on parents and children.

“You have a lot of young children going in there; the mothers come around; it is around an area where you have lot of young people gathering. So, it is definitely going to have an impact on the persons and they too, will appreciate it,” Mr. Nicholas said.

Minister for Social Transformation, Culture and Local Government, Honourable Menissa Rambally, stated that her Ministry was on an ongoing crusade to develop the proper environment, and create meaningful ways for effective community development.

“So today, I want to indicate that the Ministry’s objective is simply to put infrastructure down in communities and constituencies; our objectives are not just to ensure that we have every where we go around, fancy and lovely building. Yes, we like to know that we are seeing those physical advancements. But more importantly, our mandate is to see after the social aspects of the development of our communities,” Minister Rambally said.

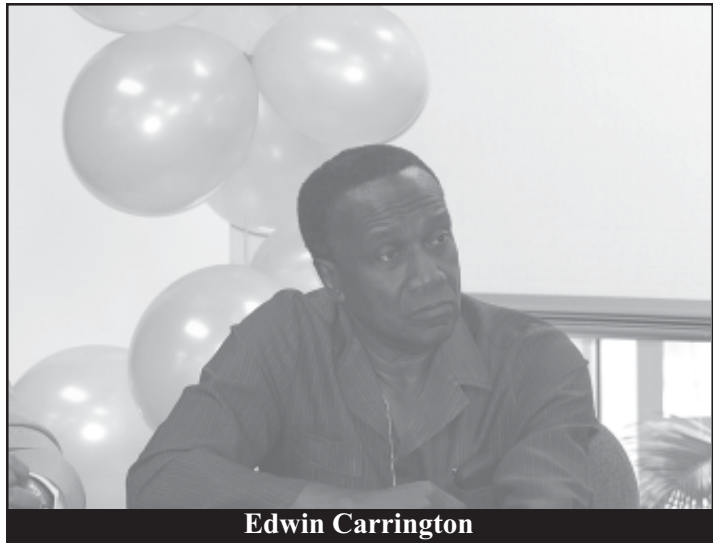
Renovation and Refurbishment of the Gros Islet Community Centre will be undertaken by Heburt Construction, while Denco Construction will execute works on the La Ressource centre.

The projects, which are to commence soon will be supervised by the consultant engineering firm of Goodridge and Associates.



Hon. Marcus Nicholas

Caricom Secretary-General Corrects Inaccurate Media Reports



Edwin Carrington

Caricom Secretary-General Edwin Carrington today reacted with surprise and some disappointment to reports in sections of the regional media that Caricom had “called for the release from detention of former Prime Minister Yvon Neptune, as one of the *conditions* for recognition of the Interim Administration in Haiti, as well as for a date certain for elections”.

Secretary-General Carrington was categorical, stating, “No such position was taken by Caricom Heads. What the Heads have said is that they would expect that the application of justice would be evenhanded, and I presume that is exactly the position of the transitional government”.

On the report of the setting of a date for elections as a condition for recognition of the Interim Administration, the Secretary General says, “The Heads never put forward any such condition. Everyone in CARICOM is aware that elections in Haiti are the responsibility of the Provisional Electoral Council, and that that is an autonomous body. What we’re hoping is that free and fair elections will take place as early as feasible”. He quoted from the Official Communique of the just-concluded meeting in Grenada:

“Determined to pursue their commitment to do what is in the best interest of the Haitian people, and mindful that Haiti remains a member of CARICOM, the Heads of Government decided to create a channel for engagement with the Interim Administration of Haiti. To this end, they decided to dispatch a five-member CARICOM Ministerial Team to Haiti to discuss recent developments with the Haitian officials”.

The Delegation of Foreign Ministers will be in Haiti 13-14 July 2004.

Internet Fiesta

Internet Fiesta 2004 climaxed here on Monday July 5th, 2004, with a number of schools receiving awards in several categories, including web builders’ challenge, internet lab decorating, and general participation. The awards ceremony was held at the Conference Centre of the National Insurance Corporation (NIC).

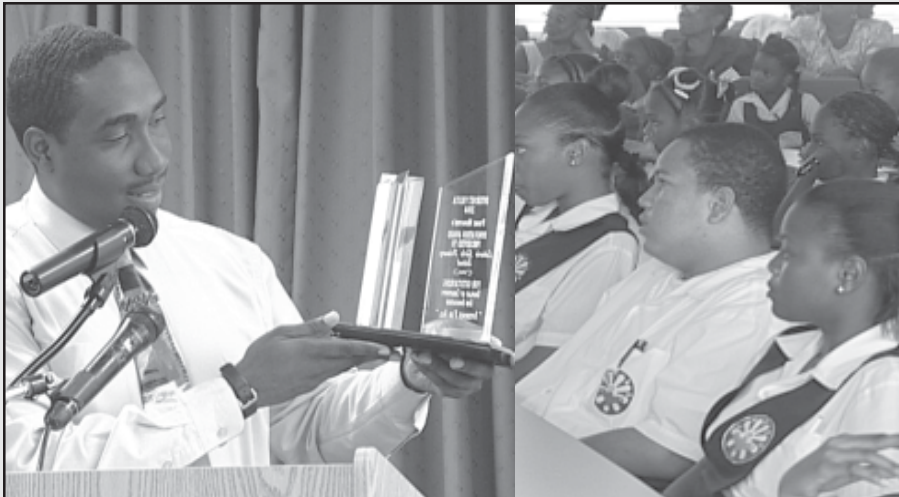
Prizes included computers and computer scanners, plaques, and printers. The awards for participation went to the Soufriere and Leon Hess Comprehensive secondary schools, and the Soufriere Primary School, while the Anse Ger Secondary School captured the web builder challenge 2004 award. The other category, Internet Friendly Lab Decoration Award was captured by the Laborie Girls’s Primary school, who also received the coveted Prime Minister’s Innovation Award.

The participation of firms was also encouraged during Internet Fiesta.

Computer Academy based in Soufriere was recognized for its outstanding contribution to the success of this year’s activity.

Internet Fiesta, started in Europe five years ago, and is now included in the events calendar of over 40 countries. The St. Lucia event was held under the theme: “Internet for all”, in collaboration with the Association of IT Professionals of Martinique, together with a grouping named “Open IT.” The event is being co-ordinated at the sub-regional level by the OECS Education Reform Unit.

National Coordinator for Internet Fiesta 2004, Dr. Cletus Bertin, said that Internet Fiesta 2005 would be held in the month of March, with more schools expected to participate. The objectives of the Internet Fiesta, he explained, are to increase awareness of the possibilities, which the Internet offers and to initiate an electronic network with people across language and cultural barriers.



Dr. Cletus Bertin shows Prime Minister’s Award to participants

Jamaican PM Thanks Saint Lucia Govt and People



P.J. Patterson and Dr. Anthony inspect the Guards

Jamaican Prime Minister P.J. Patterson has thanked the Government and people of St. Lucia for the “warm welcome and generous hospitality” he

experienced during his recent official visit to the island. In a letter dated July 5, 2004 from Jamaica House, the official Office of the Prime Minister, Mr Patterson

conveyed his thanks and appreciation for all those who were involved in the planning and execution of the entire multi-faceted programme during his two-day visit.

Prime Minister Patterson noted that “the government and people of Jamaica and St. Lucia have always enjoyed a rich familiar relationship.” He noted as well, that “our nationals have contributed to the development of both countries and left their indelible mark on the building of our national and regional institutions.”

As our countries move forward to meet the challenges of the new global environment,” said PM Patterson, “it is recognized that to thrive we must continue to strengthen our bilateral relationship and deepen the regional integration process.”

“Undoubtedly,” he continued, the intensification of people-to-people contact as envisaged in the CSME, will be central to this effort.”

The Jamaican Prime Minister said he is “confident that this precedent-setting

visit will result in the further strengthening of the relationship between our governments, and will redound to the benefit of all our people.”

The Jamaican leader and a delegation of diplomatic and private sector representatives recently visited St. Lucia, during which Prime Minister Patterson became the first Caribbean Prime Minister to address a joint sitting of the St. Lucia Parliament.

PM Patterson, who paid a courtesy call on Governor General Dame Pearlette Louisy while here, also addressed the local Chamber of Commerce and Jamaicans resident in St. Lucia, as well as students at the Sir Arthur Lewis Community College.

Mr Patterson also visited St. Lucia’s two major sporting facilities, the National Stadium in Vieux Fort and the Beausejour Cricket facility.

At the end of his visit, the Jamaican Prime Minister and his St. Lucian counterpart also held a Joint Press Conference before leaving for the 25th Caricom Summit in Grenada at the beginning of this month.

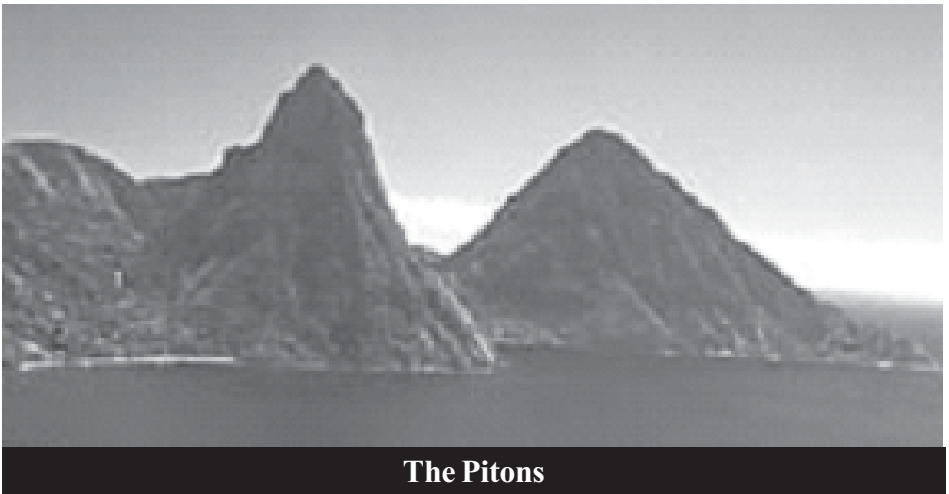
PM Welcomes News of UNESCO Director General’s Visit to the Pitons

Prim Minister Dr Kenny D. Anthony has welcomed news that the Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) is to visit St. Lucia to see the Caribbean’s latest addition to the list of World Heritage Sites.

Last week, the Director of the UNESCO Office for the Caribbean informed Prime Minister Anthony that

the Director General of UNESCO would be visiting St. Lucia in February 2005, during which he will visit the majestic twin peaks, the world-famous Pitons.

UNESCO’s Director for the Caribbean, Helene-Marie Gosselin, said the Director General actually “looks forward to visiting this exceptional site” during his visit to the island early next year.



The Pitons

Madame Gosselin said it was “with immense pleasure” that her Jamaica-based office learnt of the inscription of the Pitons Management Area by the World Heritage Committee at its recent meeting in China.

She said this was “a wonderful achievement” and that it “brings into focus, for the entire region, the importance of the natural heritage of the

Caribbean as an asset in the development of heritage tourism and the preservation of cultural heritage.”

In addition, she said: “This will also act as a tremendous incentive to other member-states for the submission of their tentative lists and proposed sites for inscription on the World Heritage List.”

The UNESCO Caribbean Representative said St. Lucia’s dossier on the site, as presented at the China meeting, was “thorough and well-prepared.”

Madame Gosselin indicated that her office was looking forward to working with the St. Lucia Government and the UNESCO National Commission “to provide whatever support is needed in the promotion and protection of this site.”

Prime Minister Anthony, commenting on the impending visit of the UNESCO Director General, said: “We look forward to welcoming the Director General and to assure UNESCO that we intend to do what it takes to ensure that the newly-won status for our main national symbols is not only maintained, but enhanced.”

Prime Minister Anthony said “the entire nation is proud” of this designation and “we will ensure that the area is developed in keeping with the requirements of its inscription as a site on the World Heritage List.”

PM to Discuss Abolition of Lord Chancellor’s Post with OECS AGs and UK Govt

Prim Minister Dr Kenny D. Anthony hosts a meeting of Attorneys General Organisation of East Caribbean States (OECS) this Friday (July 16) in St. Lucia to discuss the planned abolition by the British Government of the position of Lord Chancellor (of the Judiciary) and its implications for appointment of the Chief Justice of the OECS.

Earlier this year, the British Government informed the OECS Governments of its intention to abolish the post of Lord Chancellor, pointing

out that this would have consequences for the manner in which the sub-regional grouping’s Chief Justice is appointed.

As it stands now, the OECS Chief Justice is appointed after Heads of Government of the former British Associated States in the Caribbean informs the Lord Chancellor of their choice, which is then communicated by the Lord Chancellor to her Majesty the Queen for her formal appointment of the selected candidate.

In the absence of the post of Lord Chancellor, the process of appointment of the Chief Justice would have to be

changed, possibly requiring Constitutional adjustments in some OECS territories.

Following his meeting with the Attorneys General, the Prime Minister will leave the island for the UK for discussions with the British Government on the implications of the impending abolition (of the Lord Chancellor’s post) for the independent former British Associated States.

Prime Minister Anthony will be accompanied on his trip to the UK by the Legal Advisor of the OECS, Mr Philip La Corbinere.

Marigot Youth Summer Camp Targets HIV/AIDS



Workshop participants

Over 60 young persons from Marigot and Coolie Town in the Castries South constituency are being given the necessary training to boost their self esteem, decision making and communication skills in the continuing fight against HIV/AIDS.

Through a one-week Youth Summer Camp programme dubbed "Saving our Next Generation from HIV/AIDS Through Character Building," which started on Monday, July 12, 2004, the young persons are being equipped with the skills necessary for healthy living, through interactive lessons, games, role plays, visual and performing arts.

The training course is a collaborative effort, involving the Ministry of Health, Human Services, Family Affairs and Gender Relations; the Ministry of Social Transformation, Culture and Local

Government; and the Marigot Development Committee.

Community Development Officer, Marguerite Lubrun explained that the learning strategy being employed was the use of a holistic approach to development through the 'SPICES' philosophy, which sought to develop a balanced individual in a manner that was spiritually, physically, intellectually, creatively, emotionally and socially all encompassing.

At Monday's opening, participants were addressed by Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Health and Member of Parliament for the area, Hon. Jon Odlum.

St. Lucia Hosts 11th Annual Regional Drug Conference

Law enforcement officials from the frontlines involved in the fight against illegal drugs and firearms have begun deliberating on ways in which to stay ahead of the criminal elements in the region.

The officials are meeting here for the 11th Annual Regional Drug Commanders Conference. The four-day event is receiving technical support from the US Embassy and Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

Addressing Tuesday's opening ceremony, Minister for Home Affairs and Internal Security Senator, Honourable Calixte George spoke of the expanding networks being created and utilized by drug lords and criminal kingpins. He sighted the proliferation of illegal guns and their effects on society, seen in the mounting incidents of gun related crimes, all against the backdrop that the Caribbean did not in itself manufacture firearms.

Continued tough measures Senator George said would be needed, if the region were to remain not one but several steps ahead of the criminal elements. He commended the efforts of the United States in helping to equip the various law enforcement agencies in that regard.

"Outstanding examples of the utility value of those assets that are being provided are for example in our case, the use of the H90 Zodiac Rigid Hull Inflatable boats in counter-narcotics high speed pursuits. Then there is the utilization of the C26 aircraft surveillance and support to the RSS and their work in conjunction with the various Coast Guard units in the interception of drugs. These are clear examples of the utility value of the assets that are provided," said Senator George.

For the region there has indeed been some measure of success in fighting the drug and illegal firearms menace, with several Caribbean states reporting critical seizures and arrests.

According to US Ambassador to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean Her Excellency Mary Kramer, these successes have not gone unnoticed by the criminal elements as well as by the international community.

"We want to help you make the islands dangerous and uninviting for the

people who traffic in these drugs, remarked Ambassador Kramer. She went on, "what's happening here is that you are getting results, really important results and those results are noticed may I say world wide. People are paying attention to the successes you have here and we thank you for them."

The conference will allow top law enforcement officials to compare note and share ideas on new and innovative techniques of mitigating and ultimately stemming the tide of the illicit drugs and firearms trade facing the Caribbean.



Mary Kramer, US Ambassador to Barbados and Eastern Caribbean



THIS WEEK ON NTN

July 16th – July 23rd, 2004

Carnival Queen Pageant

2004 – Sat. July 17th, 8:00 p.m.

- **Highlights of Caribbean Media Exchange Workshop (CMex)** – Friday July 16th, 6:30 p.m.
- **Budget Address by Prime Minister of Dominica Roosevelt Skeritt** – Friday July 16th, 8:30 p.m.
- **2003 National Secondary Schools Cheerleading Competition** – Sunday July 18th, 7:30 p.m.
- **The GIS speaks with Hon. Menissa Rambally—Minister for Social Transformation, Culture, Local Government and Ecclesiastical Affairs** – Monday July 19th, 6:15 p.m.
- **The GIS speaks discusses the pros and cons of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME)** – Monday July 19th, 8:00 p.m.
- **The Medical and Dental Association presents "Methods of Contraception"** – Tues. July 20th, 9:00 pm
- **CARICOM – "Sharing the Vision"** – Wed. July 21st, 6:30 p.m.
- **Nouvelle Nous Menm (An up-to-date Edition of Government News in Kweyol)** – Thursday July 22nd, 7:00 pm
- **The Ministry of Education presents "Technical Vocational Education in Action"** – Friday July 23rd, 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.

www.stlucia.gov.lc

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