



NATIONWIDE

A publication of the Department of Information Services



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PM ATTENDS CARICOM-CUBA SUMMIT

P rime Minister Dr Kenny D. Anthony earlier this week attended the second Caricom-Cuba Summit, which took place in Barbados.

The summit, the first of which took place in the Cuban capital, Havana, three years ago, was attended by Heads of Government of the Caricom member-states and Cuba. It reviewed multilateral and bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest to the participating states.

At the end of the meeting, four documents were signed by the leaders. These included a Declaration of Bridgetown, a Statement on Terrorism, an Agreement on Cultural Cooperation Between Caricom and Cuba and an Agreement on Scientific and Technical Cooperation Between Cuba and Caricom.

The Caricom-Cuba summit was held to coincide with the designation of December 8 as Cuba-Caricom Day.

Cuba and Caricom have established diplomatic relations for the past 33 years, with Guyana, Trinidad



PM Dr. Kenny Anthony and President Dr. Fidel Castro in a comradely embrace

& Tobago, Jamaica and Barbados being the first Caricom member-states to establish diplomatic relations with Havana.

The Barbados summit was co-chaired by Cuban President Fidel Castro and Dr Anthony, who is the current chairman of Caricom.

Meanwhile, the summit was preceded by a meeting of Heads of Government of Caricom, during which the region's leaders took the opportunity to assess the state of readiness of member-states to introduce the Caricom Single Market and Economy (CSME).

NATIONAL ECONOMIC COUNCIL RELEASES INAUGURAL REPORT



The National Economic Council (NEC) has finally released its Inaugural Report and may be about to adopt a new name.

The 107-page document (Dated April 2005) has come at the end of three years of work by the NEC, following its establishment in September 2002.

The document, which was put together by a technical committee with input by the Office of Private Sector Relations (OPSR) of the Office of the Prime Minister, came at the end of a series of consultations with the social partners and recommends to the Government various initiatives aimed at accelerating the economic advancement of St. Lucia.

Inaugurated in a climate of unsatisfactory economic performance associated with considerable uncertainty in the global economy and grave concerns about the growing geopolitical tensions in many parts of the world, the NEC has over the past three years been getting its act together.

It notes that "although the particular concerns which obtained at the time of its establishment now seem less ominous to the island's economic welfare, there remains an urgent need to generate a resurgence of economic growth and to accelerate the pace of development in order to cater to the growing needs and aspirations of the population."

"In the face of these realities, the NEC undertook its mandate with a clear understanding of the importance and urgency with which St. Lucia must confront the current economic challenges and determine for itself a discernible and sustainable growth path for the medium to long term," says the report.

The report covers areas such as the development framework in which it has to operated and makes recommendations for approaches and strategies. It also examines sector-specific initiatives and cross-sector strategies, and it offers an implementation plan. The future role of the NEC and financing considerations are also covered in the report.

It is understood that the thinking among members of the council is that it's scope should be broadened to include not just economic issues, but social matters as well.

Thus, it is expected that the NEC may undergo a slight name adjustment to the National Economic and Social Council (NESC).

The Chairman of the NEC is noted local economist, Mr Richard Peterkin.



"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



RSL HAS TURNED THE CORNER

Radio St. Lucia's Sparrow Gold takes place this weekend at the Pigeon Island National Landmark. The show has been hailed by the Prime Minister as "a significant milestone" which shows that the station has "turned the corner" from one with "a tumultuous history" to one that instills "pleasure and pride" as it embraces "a new culture." He the government's decision to change the station's ownership structure "from a statutory corporation to a company wholly owned by the state" as "a step in the right direction" that is yielding "tangible results." In this issue, we feature the address by Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, International Financial Services, Economic Affairs and Information, Honourable Dr. Kenny D. Anthony, at the Press Launch for this weekend's event, which took place

at Sandals Golf Resort and Spa, La Toc, on Tuesday, November 15, 2005.

Of pleasure and pride

It is with a sense of pleasure and pride that I welcome this opportunity to speak to you briefly on this latest initiative by Radio St. Lucia – Sparrow Gold. Pleasure, because I love the Mighty Sparrow and his music. He is undoubtedly the quintessential calypsonian and performer. Pleasure, because Sparrow Gold will showcase alongside the greatest exponent of the calypso art form, some of our own seasoned and budding calypso talents. And the experience will be to the benefit of all.

A tumultuous history

My sense of pride comes from the fact that Sparrow Gold is a Radio St. Lucia initiative, and importantly, emphasises the fact that Radio St. Lucia has turned a corner, albeit quietly.

Undoubtedly, Radio St. Lucia has had a tumultuous history. Until a couple years ago, it was not uncommon for Radio St. Lucia to be in the news for all the wrong reasons. However, in the past two years, the station truly has begun the process of transformation that the Government of Saint Lucia hoped would come when it took the decision in 1999 to convert Radio St. Lucia from a statutory corporation to a company wholly owned by the state.

The idea then was to introduce a new corporate governance structure in the conduct of the affairs of RSL allowing it to function more effectively in the commercial environment in an attempt to put Radio St. Lucia on a path to sustainable growth and financial viability.

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Prime Minister Hon. Dr. Kenny Anthony

'A THIRD FRONTIER REQUIRES COOPERATION'

Keynote Address by Hon. Philip J. Pierre, Minister for Commerce, Tourism, Investment & Consumer Affairs of Saint Lucia at the 29th Miami Conference on the Caribbean Basin December 5-7, 2005. Inter Continental Hotel, Miami, Florida

Let me first of all apologize for the Hon. Prime Minister, Dr. Kenny D. Anthony, who is unable to be here due to urgent unscheduled regional events.

The Hon. Prime Minister was very pleased to be invited and intended to be here to speak on your theme: "A Prosperous Third Border". I wish to congratulate the organizers of this conference, the Caribbean Central American Action (CCAA), for their tireless efforts in ensuring that the small economies of the Caribbean and Central America have a forum for articulation by Caribbean Leaders from the public sector, the business community and civil society on the issues affecting the region and its economic prospects.

Mr. Chairman, we live at a time characterized by globalisation and trade liberalization. A time when the very systems and rules of international trade that were advanced by the developed world to facilitate the growth and development of small former colonies are being rewritten to facilitate the further advancement of the developed world. It is a time when new questions are being asked of the relationship between size and development.

It can be argued that small economies have both advantages and disadvantages, in particular, disadvantages associated with limited economies of scale, less scope for diversification and macroeconomic autonomy. In addition, since the 1980s it has increasingly been shown that trade among asymmetric countries has led to an increase in income gaps as technological advantages have not been evenly distributed between larger and smaller countries and polarization has become the rule rather than the exception.

Further, one of the critical factors identified as the cause for the continued imbalance in the pace of development between the larger and more prosperous economies and small states as exists in Central America and the Caribbean has been scale economies, both internal and external to firms. Thus, to the extent that small size implies that economies of scale cannot be attained, higher production costs and unfavourable competitive positions have resulted. This is one of the objective structural realities that confront small states and one that we have been consistently endeavouring to bring to the understanding of our global partners.

Mr. Chairman, the research shows that while very small developing economies such as those in the Eastern Caribbean with populations of less than 300,000 inhabitants have the tendency to be able to grow rap-



Hon. Philip J. Pierre

idly with exports of one or two key commodities or services, this invariably leads to a situation of extreme vulnerability. This vulnerability is further compounded as their domestic markets are too small to reap the benefits of economies of scale or provide a viable alternative market for their output. It is countries such as these in the Caribbean that are most vulnerable to the challenges of globalisation and run the risk of being caught in a development trap.

At the multilateral level, despite what appeared to be very encouraging developments in the Doha round in 2001, small economies have experienced nothing more than stumbling blocks in their efforts to maintain a continuing presence in their traditional markets in Developed Countries, with increasing technical barriers that limit their capacity to respond due to the substantial costs necessary to make the required adjustments, which are immediate. The United States Patriot Act and the new EU SPS rules requiring only fumigated pallets to enter U.S. ports are but only two major Technical Barriers to Trade (TBTs). The latter, while sounding insignificant, are among others which have further mitigated against our trading capacity. In addition to this we must contend with modifications to existing treaties which serve to effectively shut out our products. The United States modification to the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) permitting only garments made from US textiles to enter duty free into their market has had a disastrous effect on our garment industry.

The Caribbean is therefore caught at a juncture where these small countries with extremely limited resources and small markets are being asked to compete under conditions of full competition with the larger

more developed countries; countries with huge domestic markets and capacity to reap both internal and external economies and able to export to the smaller countries under more competitive terms. It is in this context that we are being asked to become a "Prosperous Third Border".

Growth Performance in the Caribbean

Mr. Chairman, a review by the World Bank of the growth performance of the Caribbean over the last four decades reveals a mixed performance. The Caribbean as a region has grown at a rate faster than Latin America but not as fast as East Asia. And while the decade of the 80s has been considered a lost decade for Latin America, this has not been the case for the Caribbean not withstanding the relative good performance of the Caribbean, there has been a declining trend of growth in the Caribbean since the 1970s. Over that period, the engine of growth has shifted from agriculture to services. But the expansion of the services sector has not seen expansion in industry or agriculture with the latter losing more ground over the last two decades. Tourism accounts for the largest share of the services sector and in St. Lucia is the largest foreign exchange earner. There has been rapid growth in local tourism entrepreneurship as evidenced by the development of a local hotel chain, viz Sunswep Resorts, owning and managing several hotels in St. Lucia and the OECS.

Expected linkages between tourism and agriculture have not seen substantial growth or increased direct investment in agriculture, however in CARICOM there has been some growth and investment in the tourism infrastructure and a number of world class hotel names have developed, e.g. Sandals Group, Almond Resorts and Super Clubs. They own properties in several islands and there has been some level of vertical integration in the Industry. The shift to services based economies has, in the main, helped cushion the fallout from the changes in the rules of international trade for agricultural trading products such as bananas, rum and sugar, structural rigidities within the economies of the small states in the region have meant that the transition within these economies have been slow and sometimes painful. Increased levels of crime, the emergence of a drug trade and unacceptable levels of poverty in some countries have become new challenges for the region. However, CARICOM as a region has maintained a high level of democracy and good governance. There are also challenges to the tourism industry viz airlift competition from supplier markets and limited marketing funds.

Small Economies Response - Restructuring Internally

Given the challenges and constraints that small size imposes and awareness of the demands of a globalized world, the Ca-

ibbean Community has moved ahead to further deepen their relationship in establishing the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME).

Mr. Chairman, the CSME is the Caribbean's response to the imperatives of a world focused on the removal of all trade preferences that have over the decades, served as the basis for the participation of small states in the Caribbean in international trade. In fact, one would note that the countries of the Caribbean are among the most open economies in the world. Therefore for us in the Caribbean, the issue is not our willingness to participate in international trade, but rather the capacity of our private sector to compete under conditions devoid of preferences.

In an effort therefore to get our productive sectors engaged in the conduct of business under conditions of full competition, the CSME will lead to the removal of all barriers to the free flow of all factors of production within the common market area. This should set the basis for a more efficient allocation of resources and increased levels of output and productivity.

As a consequence, the Caribbean area should register an expansion in intra-regional trade thereby reducing its vulnerability to external shocks in the markets of its current major trading partners. The CSME will also serve as the vehicle to present to the international community, a unified region with a market of over six million people and hence a region with the potential to attract market seeking foreign direct investment (FDI). The CSME will position the region as a jurisdiction with the capability to meet the needs of efficiency seeking FDI. This will be made possible through the collective pool of skilled labour that will become available in any member state as a consequence of the free movement of labour.

Mr. Chairman, the Caribbean is determined to address the challenges identified earlier and consequently, one of the Region's main goals is to attract foreign direct investment. In that regard, the Caribbean Community is in the process of implementing a new investment regime (Caribbean Agreement on Investment) aimed at regulating cross-border investment activity within the common market area and simultaneously developing a new investment code (Caribbean Investment Code) geared towards regulating investment activity between members of the CSME and third countries. Hence the new regulatory arrangements bear testimony to the efforts of the small economies within the region aimed at introducing greater transparency in the investment process in the CSME.

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Reclaiming Our Coastal Resources

The Department of Fisheries is calling for better management of lands which are located close to waterways. The Department has stated that blatant disregard for prescribed environmental practices have led to detrimental effects on the island’s coastal waters and marine life.

One of the bad practices the Fisheries Department has cited regards the dumping of untreated or semi-treated sewerage into the seas surrounding the island. This unsafe practice is generally taking a toll on the health and existence of marine life. In recent times the Fisheries Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries has reported that coral reefs are being endangered.

The Department of Fisheries is sounding an alarm for persons to cur-

tail negative environmental practices. The Ministry says the situation is further worsened by the effects of Climate Change on the coral reefs.

Fisheries Biologist Suzanna Scott says septic tanks which are located near shore areas and agro -chemicals disposed in rivers, also pose serious problems. But she says often bad practices such as poor land use ultimately begins the negative cycle.

“You have to look at environmental management from the island’s perspective. If you have to try to limit the amount of sediments entering into the waters, you have to start managing your land uses from well upstream because the sediment is not coming from the near shore and just falling into the sea; its coming from well inland where you have denuded areas of forests, or persons maybe planting the wrong



One of several offshore islets along St. Lucia’s coast line

types of vegetation close to a river or actually clear cutting areas very close to rivers”

Mrs. Scot says persons must recognise that pollution of rivers inevitably lead to pollution of the sea.

“ So what we have to bear in mind, in order for us to be able to correct this

is that we have to correct what we are doing on land, because anything that enters into the river enters into the sea, the rivers all lead to the sea.”

The Department of Fisheries is currently monitoring the coral reefs very closely and remain optimistic about some recovery to depleted areas.

EU Compensation - A drop in the Bucket

Prime Minister and Minister for Finance Hon. Dr. Kenny Anthony, says the just concluded Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Malta, issued a special statement on small states and the impacts of world trade on their economies. Following days of tense negotiations, Dr. Anthony says the prospects remain frightening for large scale agriculture in the region.

The latest hurdle involves the Eu-

ropean Union’s recent adjustment to its Sugar Protocol , which calls for a gradual reduction in the price of sugar. Regional leaders have expressed concern over the decision and its negative impacts on Caribbean sugar producing states like Jamaica, Barbados and St. Kitts which recently left the industry after amounting debt of over US \$150 million.

Dr. Anthony says the issue is further compounded by the lack of equity in



Hon. Dr. Kenny D. Anthony

the proposed compensation package being offered to Caribbean states via a vis their EU counterparts.

“They cannot expect to compensate the entire ACP grouping by about 40 million Euro per year. This is 40 million Euro for so many members of the ACP grouping. It really is a drop in the bucket. On the other hand, they are compensating their farmers in Europe up to 67 percent of the value of the total loss. Therefore the inequality in the system is very real.”

He says with African Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) states facing an uphill battle over bananas, the latest situation involving sugar could signal an exceedingly difficult period for regional agriculture.

GENDER EQUALITY IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT



Hon. Damian Greaves

The Honourable Damian Greaves, Minister of Health, Human Services, and Family Affairs, says that if the Caribbean is to reduce the significant losses from disasters both sexes must play a vital role in natural hazard risk reduction programmes.

According to Hon. Greaves, gender

equality must be an essential ingredient in the formula which disaster managers must use. “Gender equality is not merely a desirable by-product of human development; it is a core goal in its own right,” he told the opening of a gender and disaster management workshop in Saint Lucia.

“Gender mainstreaming means being deliberate in giving visibility and support to women’s contributions and addressing the differential impact of strategies, policies, programmes and projects on women compared with men to have an impact, gender mainstreaming must be everybody’s responsibility, everybody’s job,” he told the more the 48 participants attending from 16 Caribbean states.

The two-day workshop on “Mainstreaming Gender into Natural Hazard Risk Reduction in the Caribbean” was hosted by the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). A cross section of participants at the first ever disaster management and gender workshop

In a comprehensive address on the subject, Minister Greaves says that the key to addressing gender equality lies in not making assumptions such as assuming that women’s views are reflected by community leaders or that aggregate data and statistics paint an accurate picture of women’s lives or that what works for men automatically works for women. “Average household income, for instance, is an abstraction that only exists in the mind of an economist; it does not correspond with the reality faced by millions of women who have little or no control over how household income is used.”

His argument was that if gender is to be mainstreamed in disaster management and contribute to a reduction of losses from disasters then the woman and her views and perspectives must be an integral part of the planning process from day one. Citing several studies by the United Nations Development Programme Minister Greaves said that in crisis situation and recovery, women bear the brunt of the physical and psychological suffering during and after the crises situations.

He called on disaster managers in the region to make a concerted effort to integrate gender into disaster management planning and programmes to achieve natural hazard risk reduction.

Christmas Barrels Rolling In

The government’s annual Christmas Barrel Concession has been in effect for a week and the word from Customs is: so far, so good.

The concession, which has been approved by Cabinet every year since 1997, is being overseen by a Special Task Force appointed by the Comptroller of Customs & Excise.

It is being operated at both of the island’s wharves in the North and South, with two groups of Customs Officers located at Sheds A&B in Port Castries and another group at New Dock in Vieux Fort.

There is also a one-stop office at each location, where consignees can have their goods inspected, pay the Service Tax and Environmental Taxes and have the goods cleared.

The duty free concession has proven useful over the years for thousands of St. Lucians receiving gift items from relatives and friends abroad.

Under the scheme,each household is allowed a maximum of two barrels, each with a maximum value of goods costing EC\$1,500 – but minus electronic items or goods for commercial use.

Under the concessions, barrels are exempted from all of the normal Customs charges such as the Consumption Tax.

This year, the concession Began on December 1st and it will continue until January 15, 2006.

**ADDRESS BY THE PRIME MINISTER
HON. KENNY D. ANTHONY TO THE
SAINT LUCIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
INDUSTRY & AGRICULTURE ON THE
OCCASION OF THE 121ST ANNUAL
GENERAL MEETING**

Mr. Chairman, in preparing for this address, I could not help but notice that I was being asked to address an institution on the subject ‘Prepared for a New Era’ that was around when fledgling debates on Trade Liberalization began surfacing in the House of Commons towards the end of the 19th Century, when Queen Victoria was on the British throne, when Saint Lucia was still a crown colony boasting one of the finest naval stations in the Empire, and when Britannia still ruled the waves.

The Saint Lucia Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture has not only endured the rigours of the 19th and 20th centuries, but has also survived two world wars, several catastrophic fires, untold disasters - both natural and man made, and the social transformations that inevitably came in the aftermath. Somehow you have emerged apparently unscathed, to enter into the 21st Century, experienced and properly prepared to face its challenges, unlocking the gateway of equal opportunity for all your members.

This once great all-male preserve now boasts of a Madame President and your membership has moved beyond the merchant and planter domain, into the province of small and medium enterprises, with overwhelming acceptance. Therefore, if any institution on our island has had experience in preparing for ‘new eras’ it is the Chamber.

A new age

The theme chosen for your 121st Annual General Meeting, “Prepared for a New Era: Cricket World Cup 2007 and the CSME,” captures succinctly, the embodiment and spirit of the dawn of a new age sweeping through our region. This era will bring home to us the stark realities of Competitiveness, in the Global Jungle, whose vines are slowly enveloping the noble traditions of our heritage with a universality that is indistinguishable and faceless.

This transformation impacts both culturally and economically on our sovereignty, but above all on our ability to continue to function in isolation as a small island state on the world stage.

One only has to take notice of the recent events happening in Europe with the region’s trade in Sugar and Bananas and also the subtle barriers erected by the US with regard to trade in Textiles and Garments within the CBI arrangement, to realize that the region can no longer face and negotiate with our traditional trading partners as separate isolated small independent countries. The diametrical changes over the last decade in international geopolitics are

forcing us into strategic allegiances with like minded countries in order to buffer the tidal waves of alienation that now challenge every small country on this planet.

Size and capacity has always been linked to economic survival, but in today’s world, small countries have become an aberration that do not appear to have a voice in fora where they are members, and this is despite unanimity rules that appear to give a muted comfort, yet in reality mean nothing.

Therefore, if any justification was required for the deepening of relationships among members of the Caribbean Community, we could not have had a better reason to come together, than to allow us to be heard and respected as one loud, united voice in fora where we need to have our voices heard.

The caricom single market

On January 1st 2006, the Caribbean Community will experience the coming into being of the CARICOM Single Market. Owing to a range of technical difficulties, in particular macroeconomic adjustments in certain areas such as exchange rates and taxation, the implementation of the Single Economy has been delayed. It is hoped, however, that this very important leg in the whole process will be in place during 2008.

We cannot mull over the absence of the Single Economy in the whole process of regional integration, as this seriously impairs the ability of our weaker members to adjust in tandem with the More Developed Member States. This, coupled with the absence of the much needed economic safety net, the Development Fund, will undoubtedly disadvantage some of us in the OECS on account of size, capacity and output of our national production capabilities.

But this is not to ring the bell of doom and gloom. Saint Lucia is fully committed to the principles and objectives of the CSME, for as long as there is goodwill among all member states in the community, the region will survive. Once we operate as equals on a non-discriminatory basis, allowing unbiased access to each others’ markets without creating subtle technical barriers, the Single Market should not work to our detriment. Where nationals of the region can move freely across the region without harassment at borders and the factors of production - labour, land and capital can be accessed without difficulty, where and when required, the region as a whole is bound to prosper. We must not underestimate the power of our collective will and talents to surmount any opposition thrown in our way.



PM Anthony

Cricket world cup

Against the backdrop of this sweeping change throughout the region, a sporting event considered to be the third largest of its kind on the international sporting agenda, after the Olympics and Football World Cup, is being meticulously planned. It is now common knowledge that in 2007, Saint Lucia, along with eight other Caribbean countries, will host the International Cricket Council’s Cricket World Cup Tournament (ICC CWC 2007). Our small country will host six first round matches and one semi-final match. The Blue Package will involve 4 teams playing in Saint Lucia over twelve (12) days in the opening round and a semi-final match between the second and third ranked teams. Matches will be played in the opening round between England, New Zealand, Kenya and Canada, at the Beausejour Cricket Ground.

The blue package

Saint Lucia deliberately chose the Blue Package when it was bidding to host matches because we believed that this package would have given us the best combination of exciting cricket and enticing economic opportunity. England is currently on the ascendancy in World Cricket, having just beaten the mighty Australians in an Ashes series. They play attractive cricket, with a team underpinned by arguably the most exciting and explosive all-rounder in cricket - Andrew Flintoff. Add that to the facts that they travel with the largest and biggest spending group of fans and that they are a major tourism market for our country and you understand our elation to have England based in Saint Lucia. But that is not all. Currently, New Zealand is ranked only one point below England in one-day cricket, and they play very efficient and attractive cricket. Kenya is unpredictable, and while many people speak of only New Zealand and England, they forget that Kenya made it through to the semi-finals of the 2003 ICC Cricket World Cup, doing what teams like hosts South Africa, the West Indies, Pakistan, England, and New Zealand failed to do. We do not expect Canada to challenge for a place in the second round, but they have in John Davison one of the most explosive batsmen outside of the top eight cricket playing nations, someone who has the record for the fastest century in Cricket World Cup history. And, we must not forget that Saint Lucia Inc. (CWCSL) was established by Government for the sole purpose of preparing for and managing the staging of the One Day Cricket Champions of the World.

I say all of this Madame President to illustrate the importance of the package that



Immediate Past President of the Chamber, Mrs. Thecla Deterville

Saint Lucia has been awarded and to highlight the level of opportunity that has been provided to our country, which prior to five years ago had grown used to holding its collective breath and crossing all of its fingers in the hope that there would be no rain whenever a regional cricket fixture, which is all we were being given at the time, was scheduled for the Mindoo Phillip Park. Today, as a result of our investment in the modern sports facility that is the Beausejour Cricket Ground, we will not only host the Cricket World Cup, but the Mindoo Phillip Park will also be a beneficiary, as it will be a training venue for the teams playing in Saint Lucia.

Beausejour Cricket Ground – World Class

I want to use this opportunity to applaud the architects and developers of both the original Beausejour Cricket Ground and the new and improved version that we will see for 2007 – the firm of Newell, Lewis, Broadridge and Associates (NLBA), headed in Saint Lucia by Claude Guillaume. This firm is evidence that we can compete with the best of what the world has to offer. It is no coincidence that the only two cricket stadia among the nine that will be used during the official part of the tournament that are designed by a Caribbean firm, namely Saint Lucia’s Beausejour Cricket Ground and St. Kitts’ Warner Park Stadium, were both designed by NLBA. Every other new or improved cricket ground that will be used during the tournament, excluding any warm-up venues, is designed by a firm of architects from outside of the Caribbean. We are demonstrating with the Beausejour Cricket Ground that we are as good as the best of what the world has to offer, so why should we be afraid of CSME?

Planning for CWC 2007

Given the magnitude of the Cricket World Cup, it was necessary for us to prepare a detailed national plan to cover (1) the mechanics of the tournament; (2) the enabling environment for the tournament; (3) the commercial potential of the tournament; (4) the management of national preparations; and (5) the time frame for meeting all requirements for hosting the ICC CWC 2007.

As a consequence, Cricket World Cup Saint Lucia Inc. (CWCSL) was established by Government for the sole purpose of preparing for and managing the staging of the ICC CWC2007. I am pleased to inform you that this company is now fully operational and is interfacing in partnership with

ICC CRICKET WORLD CUP AND THE CSME

other related Government Agencies and the Private Sector. Moreover, a vehicle called BOOST, whose engine is primed by the Office of Private Sector Relations, has been established as a legacy product of the Cricket World Cup to allow local companies to maximize on any business opportunities domestically and regionally that will arise.

I have no desire to bore you with technical details that may have already been conveyed through your meetings with the management of CWCSL and the various committees on which some of you serve. Suffice it to say that the exposure that our island will receive from this tournament is unprecedented and must be optimized. In every jurisdiction that has hosted a World Games, tourism and investment opportunities have lasted long after the tournament ended, and we must ensure that similar benefits redound to our country.

Let me take this opportunity on behalf of the Government of Saint Lucia to thank you for your individual and collective contributions to this national effort so far. The success of Cricket World Cup 2007 will depend on the input of all the productive sectors of our society, from the humble village baker to the corporate director. Another legacy product of our preparation will roll out on Monday 5th December, 2005 when Her Excellency the Governor-General will

Public Service must lead the charge in this area, and I will very early in the New Year challenge our Public Service to commit to improved quality of customer service and more efficient service delivery. We cannot encourage investment yet frustrate investors with long-winded and unnecessary public service bureaucracies. I want to send out a similar challenge to the private sector to embark on customer service training in all areas and to examine modes of operations with a view towards making these more efficient where possible and necessary.

Government Incentives

Our Government has already provided some measure of incentives through the Cricket World Cup (Tourism Accommodation) Incentives Act, No 6 of 2005 and the soon-to-be-enacted Cricket World Cup (Bed and Breakfast Accommodation) Incentives Act. The response to the former has been overwhelming, and if the requests to my Office and the Ministry of Tourism are any indication, we expect public response to the latter to be just as impressive. We have extended the concessions to business places to renovate properties islandwide until January, 2007 and we are willing to consider other measures that will allow our businesses to become more competitive both for the 2007 Cricket World Cup and for the CARICOM Single Market.



Members at the head table with PM Anthony

Skilled labour

I am particularly concerned about the possible shortage of skilled labour on our island as construction work intensifies. It pleases me to see the large numbers of trucks heading northward on weekdays with crews of construction workers. However, I am aware that artisans are in very high demand, and I want to encourage the private sector, the Ministry of Education, and the trade unions to engage in discussions to seek to develop a programme that will allow more of our young men and women to be trained in the required skills.

We must also be acutely aware that with the advent of CSME, we must grasp all opportunities as they present themselves, as we are likely to encounter competition from a much larger pool of tradesmen and professionals from other member States within the community. This is as it should be, in keeping with the Treaty. Of course, we can also fill the void in other member territories where our skills are required without fear of discrimination, but, in order to do so, we must equip ourselves with the necessary skills and be prepared to deliver a quality product and service.



Agriculture Minister Ignatius Jean

Mr. Chairman, Cricket World Cup 2007 not only provides opportunities for the construction, tourism and travel industries, but also for other enterprises, such as local tour and transportation providers, entertainers, health and cosmetic services, craftsmen, artists, manufacturers, security services, photographic services, cultural, leisure and entertainment services, apparel manufacture and sales, food and beverage services, communications and the distributive trades to name but a few.

National security

Our level of preparation and that of other member States will serve to inform the world of how serious we are as competitors in the global community. It will also be of paramount importance to every one of us to measure our talents alongside the best in the world, ensuring at all times we meet with general acceptance and approval. This is a challenge for all of us, one that could make or break our fragile economies. It will also be the supreme test for the CSME, as our nine participating countries cede certain portions of our sovereignty in order for our Customs and Immigration departments to work seamlessly together as a single unit to facilitate the constant inflows and outflows of visitors across our borders, between matches. Each country hosting matches in the ICC Cricket World Cup will be expected to enact harmonized Sunset Legislation to facilitate the smooth functioning of the tournament and to secure the rights of the organizers, sponsors and the host countries.

Our Police Force, acting in concert with

their regional colleagues, will be responsible for law and order in our country, both within and outside the Beausejour Cricket Ground. There will be no lowering of standards and the rule of law as enshrined in all of our constitutions will be vigorously upheld. We have already been in contact with the British Government to explore training opportunities for our Police Force and to improve on our intelligence gathering capacity. Earlier this year, Cricket World Cup Saint Lucia brought down a former Director of the South Africa Police Force, with major experience in the planning and implementation of security for mass crowd events and world games, to undertake a preliminary safety and security audit of our island. The Security Directorate for ICC Cricket World Cup has also been working with the respective Police Departments across the nine venues in an effort to standardize and improve the level of security for the tournament.

I therefore urge every Saint Lucian regardless of his or her calling to play their part and contribute meaningfully towards the success of Cricket World Cup 2007. Our Government is playing its part by creating the enabling environment. Your membership can be expected to assist us by beautifying their business houses throughout the island and ensuring that our products and services meet the rigid demands of international standards, not only for Cricket World Cup, but in the aftermath. While we are concentrating presently on the events in 2007, it is the long term benefits that will bring us a true and lasting return on our investments as we profit from return visits from those who savoured our hospitality and the exquisite natural beauty of our island during the period and came back for more.

Conclusion

Madame President, the new era is an exciting and challenging one and our Government is certainly looking forward with optimism and great expectations. We firmly believe that we have the capacity and the skills to make both the CARICOM Single Market and the 2007 ICC Cricket World Cup work to our enormous benefit. We have been given a small window of opportunity. Let us make maximum use of it, and not live to regret what could have been or should have been. I look forward to the support of the St. Lucia Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture in joining our Government as we “boldly go where no one has gone before”.

I wish you and your members a successful 121st Annual General Meeting. I thank you.



Cricket action at Beausejour: sign of things to come for CWC 2007



Members of the audience at the Chamber AGM

WINDWARDS BANANA FARMERS CONDEMN EU'S UNILATERAL IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW TARIFF- ONLY REGIME FROM JANUARY 2006 THE ST JOSEPH DECLARATION

Following is a statement by the Windward Islands Farmers Association (WINFA), issued in St. Joseph, Dominica at a rally held on Sunday, December 4, 2005

WE the farmers of the Windward Islands and the residents of Dominica, gathered here in St Joseph in the Commonwealth of Dominica on Sunday, December 4, 2005:

DEPLORE the unilateral announcement by the European Union of its intention to press ahead with a change in its current banana import regime from January 1, 2006, in spite of widespread opposition from a majority of stakeholders in the industry.

EXPRESS OUR DEEP CONCERN that the implementation of the so-called TARIFF-ONLY system will mean an end to the historically-just system of preferential arrangements for disadvantaged small producers in the Caribbean and the other ACP ba-

nana-exporting countries.

STATE our ALARM that the very low single tariff of 176 euro per tonne, clearly established as inadequate to protect Caribbean producers, represents the single most imminent threat to the livelihood of thousands of farmers and rural folk in the Caribbean. It will inevitably lead to a flooding of the market, lower prices and further reduced earnings to farmers thus driving them out of the industry.

AWARE that all this will have a catastrophic effect on the fragile banana industry and serve to undermine the Caribbean's efforts at sustaining reasonable economic growth, especially coming after the expected huge losses in sugar earnings again occasioned by the callousness of the EU.

RE-ITERATE that such a scenario can only bring about dire economic straits for the region's peoples, lead to social and political instability and de-

prive a significant proportion of our population of their livelihood.

WE THEREFORE EXPRESS our fullest support for the many calls made by our governments and eight (8) Latin American producer countries for the EU to even at this late stage postpone the implementation of its heartless proposal for tariff-only from January 1, 2006.

EXPRESS our solidarity with the banana workers of Latin America who like us, stand to suffer if the EU goes ahead with the January 1, 2006 implementation.

RE-ITERATE our fullest commitment, to work to ensure further reform of the banana industry so as to ensure greater democracy, more equity, and bring more just returns to banana farmers; and finally

DECLARE our intent to defend our banana industry with all the means



at our disposal, to exhort our governments and regional negotiators to seek the fairest possible deal in the WTO negotiations in Hong Kong and to continue to fight even beyond Hong Kong if necessary, to defend our livelihood.

Unanimously agreed by the farmers of the Windward Islands of Dominica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Lucia and Dominica at a public rally held in St. Joseph Park in the Commonwealth of Dominica on Sunday 4th December 2005.



Hon. Dr. Kenny D. Anthony

Prime Minister Dr Kenny D. Anthony has been honoured by the United States Congressional Black Caucus for his outstanding contributions to the development of his country and the entire Caribbean Community.

The honour was bestowed on the St. Lucia Prime Minister last month to coincide with activities to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Carib News Multinational Business Conference, which was held in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands.

The plaque honouring Prime Minister Anthony was signed by the current Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus and was dated November 11, 2005. It was unveiled at the gathering of top US Black political and business leaders in Christianstead, St. Thomas, which was held between November 11 and 13 and was attended by some twenty members of the Congressional Black Caucus.

U.S. Congressional Black Caucus Honours Saint Lucia's PM

However, two days earlier, on November 9, 2005 ranking member of the Black Caucus, Democratic Congressman Charles B. Rangel of New York, delivered a speech at the first session of the 109th Congress, in which he placed on the Congressional Record, the text of the proclamation to be awarded to Prime Minister Anthony at the conference.

It was cited as "A proclamation Celebrating the Accomplishments of Dr. Kenny Anthony for his Outstanding Leadership and Service to the people of St. Lucia, the Caribbean region and the International Community."

Congressman Rangel said that by honouring the St. Lucia Prime Minister, he and his Congressional colleagues were following "an established and honoured tradition." This tradition, he said, was one that allowed for "elected officials to recognize the outstanding contributions of those persons whose leadership, scholarship and total life's work have helped to transform people's lives for the better, especially in their own countries and region."

He said such leaders "are reliable foundations on which sustained economic growth and human development are built, paving the way for a better standard of living for all, particularly the poor, and are therefore an inspiration to people at home and abroad."

The ranking New York Democrat told the US Congress that Prime Minister Anthony "is obviously one such leader and a dedicated public servant."

Citing the St. Lucia Prime Minister's professional accomplishments and his leadership in Government, Congressman Rangel noted that Prime Minis-

ter Anthony "has served as head of the Government of St. Lucia at a time when the country has gained international recognition for its pace of human development."

He said Prime Minister Anthony "has led St. Lucia with distinction for almost a decade while directing much of the work on the historic creation of the Caribbean Court of Justice."

He said: "St. Lucia has given the world two Nobel Prize Winners, one in economics and the other in literature" and is thus "contributing even more to the improvement of the human condition." he said that showed that "a small nation can be a showcase of talent and intellect, while being an example when it comes to adhering to the rule of law and parliamentary democracy."

On that basis, the Congressman said, it was an honour for he and his fellow

Congressional colleagues, to "salute and commend Dr Kenny D. Anthony for his leadership on the national and international stages, within Caricom and the countries which belong to the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)."

Over the past decade, the annual conference has brought together elected officials, civic leaders, entrepreneurs and executives of major corporations to explore opportunities for growth and expansion in the emerging markets and developing economies of the Caribbean.

According to Congressman Rangel, the conference "has significantly contributed to the building of closer working relationships and personal ties between Caribbean leadership and the Member of Congress who have participated."



The plaque the PM received

Single Regulatory Unit to Introduce Increased Supervision and Monitoring of Financial Sector

A Single Regulatory Unit (SRU) involving all players in the financial sector is currently being introduced in Saint Lucia. Over the weekend a consultative meeting was held among representatives of the credit unions and cooperative sector, officials of the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Labour Relations, Public Service and Co-operatives.

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance Mr. Trevor Braithwaite briefed the gathering on the implications of establishing the Single Regulatory Unit in an environment of strengthened financial supervision and monitoring.

Braithwaite says the Single Regulatory Unit concept is currently unfolding in several other Caribbean territories against the background of “fragmentation of supervision in various financial institutions, insufficient legislation to strengthen the hand of legislators and regulators, and an absence of a proactive approach to emerging financial entities.”

The Ministry of Finance official who also sits on the Board of Directors

of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank ECCB says there are new developments that increasingly impact on the structure, organisation and management of the financial sector.

“Right now we also have linkages between the local, regional and international credit unions. For instance, we know a lot of work have been done with regional and international counterparts for credit unions in terms of assisting in some of their supervisory efforts and we have supervisory bodies that contribute to the financial and economic policies that are developed from time to time. These are the existing arrangements; these are the strengths we see.”

One trend which he says must be seriously considered is the integration of financial services, some of which are very sophisticated but unregulated due to limitations in the existing financial legislation. The onus is on government to take prudent measures and remain one step ahead of this fast track sector.

The Single Regulatory Unit - authorised via a Cabinet memo - should come into effect during the last quarter of 2006. Mr. Braithwaite said Cabi-

net has recommended that the unit be established within the Ministry of Finance.

Once the SRU becomes operational, it will begin to work towards its mandate which is to strengthen and improve financial regulation and supervision of all financial institutions not licensed under the Banking Act in the context of the soon to be established Uniform Banking Act through an effective, integrated and dynamic framework.

The consultation was held on Saturday 03rd December at the National Insurance Corporation Conference room on the Waterfront in Castries.

Statement on Massade Fire

The Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security has expressed condolences to the family of an eleven year old boy who passed away at the Boys Training Centre at Massade on Friday November 25th at about 11.30 p.m. Jamal Roberts died following a fire at the Centre where 20 of young boys are being housed, some for care and protection and others who have have committed criminal offences

The quick response of the Fire Services and Police averted any major damage or any additional loss of life. Following the incident the family of the teenager was immediately informed. In addition the senior magistrate was notified according to statutory rules and regulations.

The other wards at the Centre were given grief counselling on Saturday morning. This was followed by a debriefing session for the entire staff on Monday 28th.

The Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security shares the grief of the family of the deceased, and also shares the loss by the other wards and the staff. An autopsy was carried out on Monday 28th and the report and all additional information has been passed on to the police. The areas have been secured while the police are continuing their investigation. The Cabinet of Ministers has instructed that a coroner’s inquest be conducted on the incident.

Sparrow Gold at Pigeon Island Tomorrow

Radio St. Lucia is all set for tomorrow evening’s Sparrow Gold show, which will take place at the Pigeon Island National landmark.

The show, which is being organised by RSL with sponsorship from the local private sector, is taking place against the background of the continuing efforts of the station to diversify its income base and continue its popularity upswing.

The show will celebrate The Mighty Sparrow’s double achievement this year – that of 50 years in music and his 70th birthday.

RSL’s General Manager Roger Joseph says “all systems are go and we expect it to be a show like no other.”

Indeed, there is much expectation that the show will be well attended, if not over-subscribed.



The Mighty Sparrow

12 Saint Lucians at Francophonie Games

Twelve St. Lucians left the island earlier this week for the African state of Niger, where they will participate in this year’s annual Francophonie Games.

The games, which bring together delegations from French-speaking countries or countries with a historical association with France, is being attended by six athletes and three artistes from St. Lucia.

The artistes include Elra Ermay, a rising local star whose latest CD features a popular song done in Kweyol, which will be her main entry at the competitive cultural section of the event. Ms Ermay is also accompanied by her three-member band.

The delegation is being led by the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Sports, Mr Henry Mangal.



Elra Ermay

ACTING PM CONGRATULATES VINCENTIAN PM ON ELECTION VICTORY

Acting Prime Minister Hon. Philip J. Pierre on Thursday congratulated Vincentian Prime Minister, Dr Ralph Gonsalves, on his party’s victory in the December 7, 2005 General Elections in the neighbouring multi-island state. Following is the full text of Mr Pierre’s message to the Vincentian Prime Minister, who is also the Leader of the Unity Labour Party (ULP):

Dear Comrade Ralph, I wish to congratulate you on the resounding success of your party in yesterday’s general election.

We in St. Lucia never had any

doubts that the ULP would have been returned to office. We were fortified in that view by the fact that in your first term, your party and government performed sufficiently well as to maintain the confidence originally expressed in your ability to lead St. Vincent and the Grenadines into the new era of globalization.

We are confident that you, your party and government will provide over the next five years the leadership necessary to face and survive the challenges brought on Caribbean countries by the new global and regional economic and political realities.

We look forward to continuing the cooperation and solidarity that has existed between our two people and countries as we brace for a new era in regional unity, cooperation and integration and we look forward to repeating your victory at the polls when our time comes in St. Lucia.

Once again, congratulations n your splendid victory and we offer you our very best wishes for the Christmas and New Year holidays.

Sincerely,
Philip J. Pierre
Acting Prime Minister



Hon. Philip J. Pierre

RSL HAS TURNED THE CORNER

RADIO ST. LUCIA CO. LTD. Presents

Sparrow Gold

Sunday December 11, 2005 At 5:00pm
Pigeon Island National Landmark Side Lawn

Also featuring
 Calypso King Walleigh, Invader, Pep, Educator, Animator, Little Ginger, Jubilee Dance Ensemble.
 Music by Reasons/Sparrow Back-up-Band
 MC: Boots Samuel

Admission: \$60
PAY MORE AT THE DOOR

FRUTA BWA Coco Palm Sandals St. Lucia H.M.S.

TICKETS: Book Salon, Y-De-Lima, Sunshine Book Store, Steven Barber Shop, Cosmopolitan Bar, Shemella Plaza - V Port, Party World, Erdine's Foods - Soufriere, Allaina Supermarket - Soufriere, Lions Club Members, RSL Marine Office

Continued from page 2

Tangible results

While the process is still under the way, some tangible results are already evident. The greater level of accountability on the part of the Board of Directors and management, which has begun to emerge, has started to impact the financial performance positively, although marginally, at this time.

Importantly, for the past two years RSL has been able to provide successive audited financial statements and annual reports to the Government of Saint Lucia, which have been laid in the Parliament of Saint Lucia. And, my understanding is that the annual report and audited financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2005 are about to be presented to the shareholders; and indications are that RSL has registered an operating profit for the financial year just ended...the first in a long time for the company.

These are significant milestones for RSL. The company has shouldered its responsibility and responded positively to the call from the Government of Saint Lucia for a greater degree of accountability,

transparency and financial prudence in the conduct of its affairs.

A new culture

Figuratively, the bush has been cleared and the process of cultivating a new culture at RSL has begun. There is still much to be done. Having been part of the process of establishing a new strategic direction for RSL, the Government of Saint Lucia is satisfied that there is a clear vision for RSL and a strategy is emerging to take RSL to the pre-eminence of broadcasting in Saint Lucia.

A step in the right direction

The challenge though will be the mobilization of the required resources to do so. Sparrow Gold represents a step in the right direction. It says that Radio St. Lucia is rising to the challenge and embracing new and alternative ways of generating revenues.

So yes, I am pleased and proud...pleased and proud that a bold move by the Government of Saint Lucia is paying dividends.

I wish to commend the Board of Directors, management and staff of Radio St. Lucia for their efforts and for an excellent idea that combines a pursuit of the company's vision and mission with a potential revenue earner.

And it is with pleasure and pride that I wish to formally launch Sparrow Gold! I thank you...and look forward to seeing you at the show!

A THIRD FRONTIER REQUIRES COOPERATION

Continued from page 2

We recognise too, that a regime which lends itself to greater harmonization of fiscal and monetary policy is vital to cementing the CSME as a mechanism to reposition the small economies of the Region. While the Single Market component of the integration process will be fully enforced by December 31, 2005, work continues on the establishment of the Single Economy which is targeted for full implementation by 2008. With its completion, the small economies of the Region will be one step closer to completing the reform process vital to ensuring their sustained participation in the new world economy.

Regional Trade Policies and Initiatives

As a further response to the imperatives that face the Caribbean Region, CARICOM has entered into a number of bilateral trade agreements with key countries within the Caribbean Basin aimed at strengthening economic ties and bolstering trade activity within the Region. These one-way free trade agreements are also meant to signal to the international business community the CSME's readiness to take advantage of its geographical location, its highly trained workforce and stable and predictable economic and political environment to serve as a focal point; bridging the gap between the rest of the world and the partner countries within Latin and Central America.

Mr. Chairman, the small economies of the Caribbean have also been following and participating in the discussions with respect to the formation of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA). We recognise that the negotiations have lost some momentum but we remain poised to play our role in the eventual formation of this hemispheric trade agreement meant to increase economic activity within the Region.

CARICOM is currently engaged in negotiations with its most significant donor partner, the European Union, in crafting an economic partnership agreement as a successor to the Lome/Cotonou system. This is a very critical negotiation for us and we have identified that at the core of the agreement must be, the understanding that the new arrangements must meet the broad objective of enhancing the regional integration process. We will be seeking an agreement which will have enshrined in it a set of principles, schemes and programmes,

that will help provide special resources for the construction of a CARICOM Single Market, and more importantly, a Single Economy that will be integrally a part of the new EPA economic arrangements. The purpose of this is to ensure that resources are available to assist in the structural transformation of our economies to compete in the new liberalized environment.

Mr. Chairman, at the multilateral level, the small island economies of the Caribbean Basin are fully engaged in the Doha Round of negotiations and have made commitments, especially in the services sector, which clearly indicate our intention to continue along the path of progressive liberalization as is contained in the GATS Agreement. We recognise that for liberalization to fully achieve its objectives there must be the accompanying regulatory framework. Against this background therefore, CARICOM will not be interested in accelerating the pace of liberalization of our services sectors unless adequate analysis of the impact of liberalization is done and the required legislative arrangements are in place. We therefore hope that balance and good judgement prevails during the upcoming Hong Kong Ministerial Meeting.

Increasing Competitiveness and Competing in a Liberalized Global Market

The efforts of the small economies of the Caribbean to continue meaningful participation in the global economy and achieve the universal goal of improved standards of living for their peoples should therefore be clear to all. As part of a programme aimed at increasing the level of competitiveness of the workforce, Saint Lucia for example, will achieve the goal of providing universal secondary education by the start of the next academic year in 2006. While we recognise that the relationship between skills and competitiveness is long-term, we believe that improving the relevance of our education is central to developing competitiveness over the medium-to-long term.

We will however continue our short-term training and retooling programmes for the existing labour force geared towards meeting immediate demand, however Saint Lucia and the CARICOM region have embarked on a programme of skills development and creating a learning workforce as our strategy towards maintaining our competitiveness in the current environment.

Conclusion

Mr. Chairman, the importance of international trade and growing interconnectedness of the global economy signal to small economies the need to examine closely the strategies that must be developed to ensure their survival. Within the CARICOM region we must first of all maintain macroeconomic stability. This implies sound fiscal systems that provide resources for the public sector to do its job, deepening of our financial markets, developing a responsive set on monetary policy and financial arrangements to meet the needs of CARICOM members and developing the capacity and competitiveness of a labour force free to move within the common market.

The Governments of CARICOM recognise that in small economies a competitive group of small firms cannot be expected to emerge spontaneously because of the lack of adequate externalities and the learning process involved. In addition, it is also recognised that structural transformation is not an automatic result of macroeconomic stability and open trade and investment rules. Appropriate policy interventions are required to stimulate change and forge alliances between firms thereby strengthening their capacity to be competitive.

We must also find like-minded voices, at the UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, and the WTO to support our interests and ensure that the international community does not forget, that given the vulnerabilities and limited flexibility characteristics of small economies, special and differential treatment as was agreed to in Doha in 2001 must be incorporated into agreements particularly that on Trade in Services and Trade Related Investment Measures. We cannot hope for a change in the attitudes of Multi-national corporations, who in their quest for profit are prepared to alienate traditional allies and in the process destroy small sovereign democracies, who have always upheld the rights of man and the rule of law. But we must remain acutely aware that if we surrender to their whims and fancies, it would be to plunge our hemisphere into another long dark age that will extend well beyond our shores.

I believe there is hope for a prosperous third border, but Mr. Chairman, it will require co-operation from the strong as well as the not so strong in the Caribbean Basin for its eventual realization. I thank you.



THIS WEEK ON NTN

Sat. Dec.10th – Fri. Dec. 16th , 2005

The GIS discusses the impact of the CSME on St. Lucia's Music Industry Sat. Dec. 10th 11:00 a.m.

A Closer Walk – The Global Effect of HIV/AIDS Sun. Dec. 11th , 11: 30 a.m.

The Story of Canaries – Part 2 – Mon. Dec. 12th 8:00 p.m.

Senior Games 2005 – Tues. Dec. 13th, 9:00 p.m.

Nation Beat (Rebroadcast) – Wed. Dec. 14th , 8:00 p.m.

The GIS discusses the state of preparedness of some regional countries for WCC 2007 – Thurs. Dec.. 15th , 8:00 p.m.

The Ministry of the Public Service Presents it's policy on HIV/AIDS in the Workplace – Fri. Dec. 16th ,9:00 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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Contact us at: The Department of Information Services, Greaham Louisy Administrative Building, The Waterfront, Castries, St. Lucia, West Indies
Tel: (758) 468 2116; Fax (758) 453 1614; E-mail: gis@candw.lc; <http://stlucia.gov.lc>