

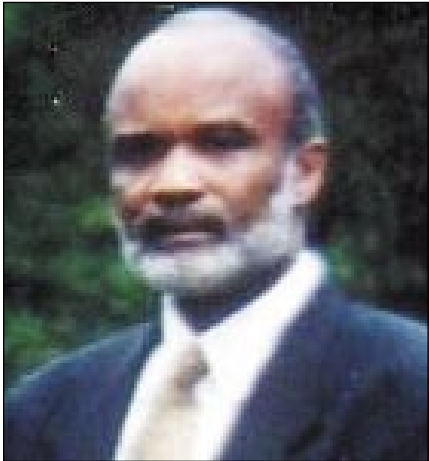
THE OECS IS 25



Hurricane Warnings
- page 2

COVER NOTE

The Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), which is headquartered in St. Lucia, observes the 25th anniversary of its founding on Sunday 18th June. To mark this significant milestone in the history of the region, this edition of St. Lucia Nationwide devotes four pages to the OECS. Our cover picture shows the flags of the member countries and six of the seven persons who signed the Treaty of Basseterre on that historic day in St. Kitts – Nevis. They are: at the back: the late Winston Cenac, Prime Minister of St. Lucia; the late Maurice Bishop, Prime Minister of Grenada; Lester Bird, former Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda; front: the late Dame Eugenia Charles, former Prime Minister of Dominica; the late Hudson Tannis, former Foreign Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines; Dr. Kennedy Simmonds, former Prime Minister of St. Kitts and Nevis. Missing from the picture is Franklyn Margetson, former Minister of Government from Montserrat who signed on behalf of Montserrat.



Saint Lucia Normalises Relations
with Haiti - page 7



“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



Warnings For The Hurricane Season

NEMO: Prepare

With the first week into the 2006 hurricane season gone, the National Emergency Management Organization NEMO is calling on Saint Lucians to be ever more vigilant and to make the necessary adjustments that will allow them to safely weather a storm.

Director of NEMO Dawn French said Saint Lucians need to stock-up on the necessary food items in case a hurricane strikes.

“We never advocate that people do the last minute buying at the supermarkets and get caught in that rush. We advocate that people look at the things they are buying now—their bottled water, their tin food, their biscuits, dried bean—start having those things in place, start looking at the important document they want to secure if they are going to leave home,” said the

NEMO Director.

She said people should attempt to inspect their homes from now and make the necessary repairs to avoid their dwellings from being blown away in a storm. Home, she says, should be the first place of shelter in the time of a storm and should be secure.

“That is my policy personally. I have tried to strengthen my mothers home and if things get too bad I will move to my sisters place, because the last place government is going to open is a school or a shelter, and we know what the conditions are like there; we would have to wait for NEMO to send down particular food items and bedding and clothing,” French said.

Experts predict that this year’s hurricane season will be as active as last year’s.

Solid Waste Mangement: A Caution

With the advent of the hurricane season, the Saint Lucia Solid Waste Management Authority is advising the public to exercise caution in their management of green waste which includes grass clippings, tree trimmings, cut or fallen trees.

Education and Public Information Manager at the Authority Emlyn Jean disclosed that the hurricane season is the time of year when residents and other agencies undertake tree trimming and cutting in order to protect lives and property.

“However we need to ensure that while attempting to prevent one problem we do not create others. It is therefore critical that all green waste

is properly managed. No green waste should be dumped along roadsides, near or in communal bins as it gets into drains resulting in flooding during rainfall. Additionally, waterways such as rivers, ravines etc. should not be utilised for dumping of green waste. They should be left free of waste in order to allow the free flow of water.”

Miss Jean recommends that all green waste should be transported to the Deglos Sanitary Landfill or the Vieux Fort Solid Waste Management facility. She further advised that the monthly bulky waste collection service can be utilised for the disposal of small quantities of green waste provided that it is properly bundled or bagged.



Flooding in Castries



Deglos Landfill

Chaussee reopens to two way traffic

Chaussee Road is now open to two-way traffic after works to install a water main along that street was completed Tuesday June 6th, 2006. Drainage works on the Chaussee had been completed for months now, but the opening of the route was delayed because of problems experienced with the replacement of the WASCO main.

According to Project Manager Mandish Singh, who is also the Director of the Halcrow Group, workmen were busy Tuesday afternoon completing paving works to make the road more motorable.

“That would be the majority, I would say, 95% of the work done on the Chaussee. There are a few remedial pieces of work remaining to be done, some drain inlets where we need to install some grills, but that would not at all interfere with the traffic during the installation of those grills,” Singh said.

Workmen are now focussing on works to be undertaken on the Darling Road as well as drainage works on Jn. Baptiste Street. Mr. Singh anticipates that all works on the Castries Flood Mitigation Project should be completed by the end of July.

“The works on the Darling which, in the next two weeks we are hoping to commence, will involve the raising of Darling Road and the installation of



The Retention Pond off the Chaussee Road

flood pipes as well as cleaning and refurbishing of the existing culvert under Darling Road with the junction of Jn Baptiste Street. So it is quite critical that we’ve gotten this piece of work behind us so we can move forward

with the last part of the works,” said the Director of the HALCRO Group.

The flood mitigation project was designed to deal with the problems of flooding in that area. Apart from the installation of drains along Jn Baptiste

Street and the elevation of Darling Road, a retention pond, to collect much of the water from smaller drains, was constructed in the George the Fifth Park. This is expected to ease the pressures on existing drains during heavy rains.

Government/Grambling State Sign Scholarship MOU



Dr. Horace Judson, President of Grambling State and PM Anthony Signing the MOU



Exchanging copies of the MOU

The Government of Saint Lucia and the Grambling State University of Louisiana, USA have formalised a scholarship agreement with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on Education.

The agreement entails five full International Student Scholarships and fifty partial International Presidential Student Scholarships at Grambling State. It takes effect this month and will last for five years.

President of the Grambling State University Dr. Horace Judson was in Saint Lucia for the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding last Friday. He said that although Grambling was extending its services as part of its overall mission, he expected Saint Lucian students will create an environment at the University that will provide greater opportunities for domestic students.

“So while you come and receive a quality education you will also help to create an environment that helps edu-

cate our domestic students, and helps us prepare our students to live successfully, work successfully and co-operatively in a global community and a global society.”

Prime Minister Hon. Dr. Kenny Anthony, while stressing his appreciation for the scholarships was optimistic that students who gain scholarships will take full advantage of the opportunity to further their education.

“I believe and sincerely believe that our Saint Lucian students will acquit themselves very well. They will make us proud and make you feel a sense of justification for providing these scholarships. But beyond that it is important for us as a small nation to understand the umbilical cords that bind us, the roots that shape us and in a very real sense your humanity is reaching out, not only for that broader purpose of enhancing your own reputation as an international institution, but more importantly reaching out to make a definitive statement about the historical relationships that we share.”

Education policy on teen mothers

Saint Lucia’s education policy concerning teenage mothers has attracted the praise of the United Nations Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women.

Saint Lucia as party to the Convention has been identified as moving in the right direction. Director of Gender Relations Lera Pascal said the Education Act facilitates the continued educational development of female students who become pregnant.

“One of the things we were questioned about was the position of Saint Lucia on teenage pregnancy and teen motherhood at school. We were happy to tell them that in Saint Lucia there is no policy that prevents a teen mother from attending school. There is no such policy. As a matter of fact the Education Act makes it illegal for any

child under the age of fifteen to be out of school.”

However in light of the extenuating factors that can mitigate against a teen mother’s continuation of school, Ms. Pascal said the state has implemented successful mechanisms to provide support systems for young mothers to continue to develop educationally. One such example is the National Skills Development Centre – NSDC.

“Apart from doing their studies in whatever fields, there is a child care component so the children can be put into the nursery and they can learn about child care and at the same time and they do their studies. I think this is an excellent arrangement.”

Ms. Pascal says to deprive a young mother of her education would be to perpetuate a vicious cycle of poverty in most.

Requirements For Cuban Nursing Scholarships

The Government of the Republic of Cuba is offering the Government of St. Lucia 300 scholarships in Nursing tenable at a University in the Republic of Cuba for the academic year 2006/2007. The Commencement date for this programme is June 30th 2006.

The pre-requisites for these scholarships are as follows:-

Applicants must be citizens of St. Lucia between the ages of 18 and 25 years.

Possess a current medical certificate that shows good physical and mental health (HIV, Hepatitis, Pregnancy tests must be included).

Candidates should have attained,

a minimum of four passes at CXC level [Grades 1,2 and 3) preferably in English, Mathematics, one Science subject and one other.

Applicants are also required to provide a recent Police Record or Certificate of Character.

Interested applicants are invited to contact the Department of Human Resource Development, Ministry of Education, Human Resource Development, Youth and Sports, Francis Compton Building, 4th Floor, Waterfront, Castries, or at telephone numbers (758) 468-5230/1 to complete the relevant application forms.

The deadline date for the receipt of application forms is Monday 19th June 2006.

OECS CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY

TWENTY FIVE YEARS OF INTEGRATION

Twenty five years ago, on the evening of June 18th 1981 in Basseterre St. Kitts, the leaders of government or their representatives, of Antigua & Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, and St. Kitts and Nevis, signed a Treaty establishing the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States and so ushered in a new era of regional integration between their countries. The foundation of the OECS had in fact been laid fifteen years before when the countries had begun cooperating in some functional areas through an informal mechanism of heads of government called the West Indies Associated States Council of Ministers, the WISA Council.

The OECS built on that experience and twenty five years later is recognized as one of the most successful examples of regional integration among developing countries. Its success is all the more remarkable because its members states are some of the smallest in the world. How-

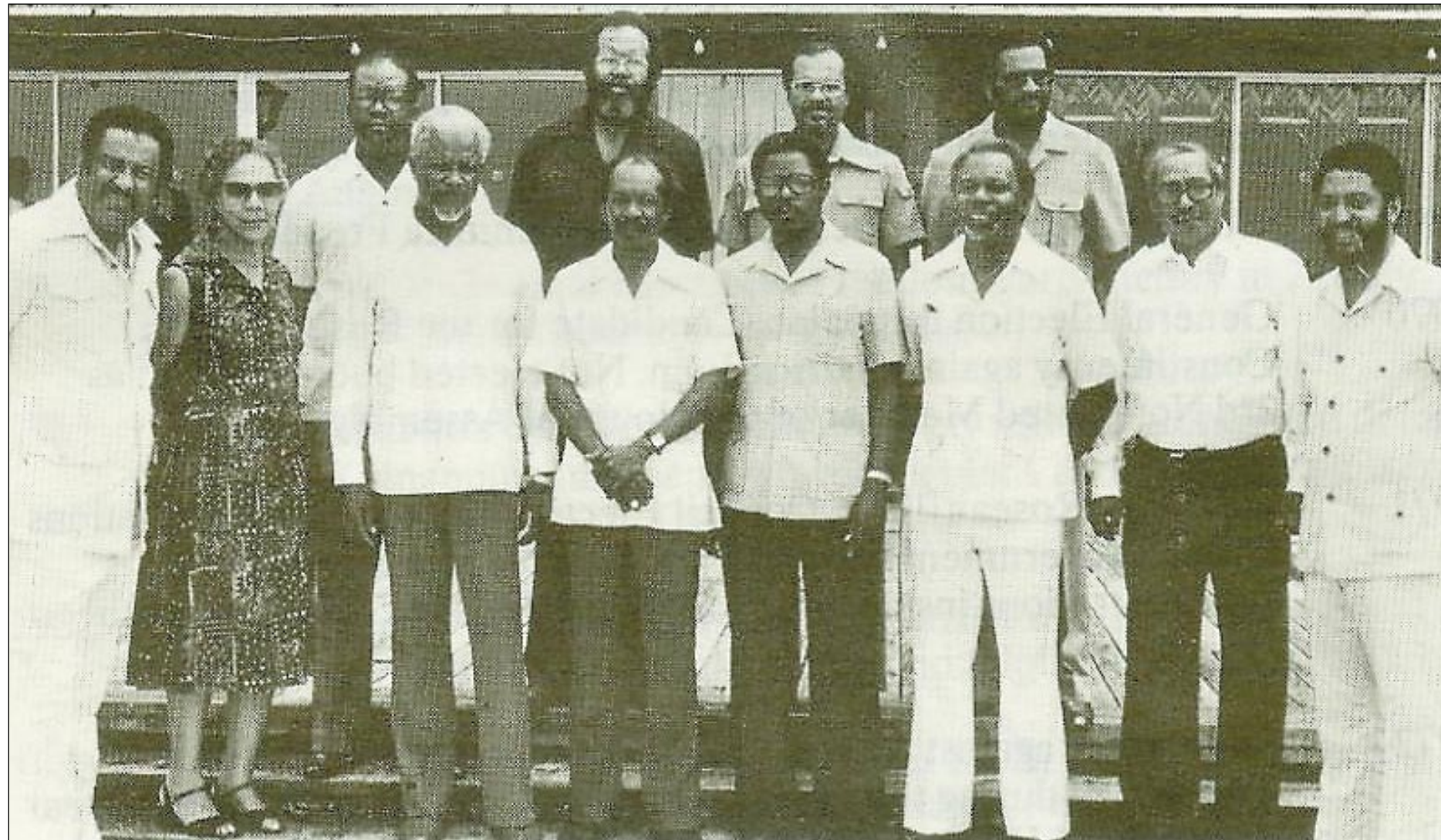
ever it is precisely because they are so small that regional integration has been so necessary for them, operating as it does, on the principle that there are some functions of government that countries, particularly small ones, can do best if they carry them out together.

The official celebrations of this twenty fifth anniversary of this regional integration movement begin on the afternoon of Sunday June 18th with Church services throughout the member states. The celebrations then move to Basseterre, St. Kitts on Wednesday 21st June where the Heads of Government will hold a meeting of the Authority, the highest decision making organ of the OECS. There will be two significant events during the formal opening ceremony of the meeting. A new flag for the OECS will be unfurled for the first time and an award will be given to a national of the OECS who has made an outstanding contribution to the integration movement. The opening ceremony will also be the stage for the presentation of an economic union treaty to replace the Treaty of Basseterre, establishing the OECS, as the countries now embark on further deepening the

integration process. The Heads will sign a Declaration of Intent to bring the Economic Union Treaty into existence in 2007, after one year of consultations with the people of the member states. The opening ceremony will be followed by a gala dinner during which more awards will be given to other individuals who have assisted with the growth of the Eastern Caribbean integration movement. Prior to the formal OECS Authority conference, the Heads will meet on Wednesday morning with representatives of development partners – friendly countries and international organizations – to discuss development assistance to the Organization in light of the impending economic union.

As the celebrations of the twenty fifth anniversary of the OECS take place, it is recalled that there are some St. Lucians who made noteworthy contributions to its success. There was the first Director General of the Organisation, Dr. Vaughan Lewis, and the first Director of Administration, the late Augustus Compton who guided the organisation through its first very challenging decade; there was former Prime Minister, Sir John Compton, who was one

of the leaders of the WISA Council who thought that with the impending independence of the countries in the late 1970's to the early 1980's, they should find a means of cooperating on overseas representation, an idea that led to the OECS, and who on his return to office in 1982, helped steer the organization through its turbulent first years in which it had to deal with, among other critical problems, the implications of the Grenada Revolution and the military coup that aborted it; and there was Earl Huntley, the former St. Lucian diplomat and public servant, who wrote the report on the mechanics of joint overseas representation, the report that called for the formation of a new organisation that would incorporate joint diplomatic arrangements and formalize and strength the integration process that had begun in 1966. As this organisation that was born in 1981 ends its first twenty five years of linking the people of the Eastern Caribbean, we look forward to a new era when it will truly unite them through its transformation into one Eastern Caribbean State.



THE BIRTH OF THE OECS 18TH JUNE, 1981: Signatories to the Treaty of Basseterre front row from left to right: DPM Lester Bird of Antigua and Barbuda, PM Eugenia Charles of Dominica, Foreign Minister Hudson Tannis of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, PM Kennedy Simons of St. Kitts and Nevis (fifth from left), PM Winston Cenac of Saint Lucia (sixth from left), PM Maurice Bishop of Grenada (extreme right) and back row: second from left Franklyn Margetson of Montserrat. Others include back row, extreme right, Foreign Minister Peter Josie, of Saint Lucia and front row fourth from left Augustus Compton Executive Secretary of the WISA Council

THE ORIGINS OF THE OECS

The Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) came into being on June 18th 1981, when seven Eastern Caribbean countries signed a treaty agreeing to cooperate with each other and promote unity and solidarity among the Members. The Treaty became known as the Treaty of Basseterre, so named in honour of the capital city of St. Kitts and Nevis where it was signed.

Prior to the signing of the Treaty of Basseterre, the Eastern Caribbean States had been informally linked through two bodies that had been set up after the collapse of the West Indies Federation. These were: The West Indies Associated States Council of Ministers (WISA) in 1966 and the Eastern Caribbean Common Market (ECCM) in 1968. However as the islands gained their independence from Britain it

became evident that there was need for a more formal arrangement to assist with their development efforts. So it was that the OECS was established. The WISA Secretariat became the Central Secretariat of the OECS and the ECCM, the Economic Affairs Secretariat.

In mid 1997, as a result of restructuring of the organisation, the Economic Affairs Secretariat was merged into and became

a Division of the OECS Secretariat in St. Lucia.

The OECS is now a nine member grouping comprising Antigua and Barbuda, Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia and St Vincent and the Grenadines. Anguilla and the British Virgin Islands are associate members of the OECS.

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE OECS THE STRUCTURE OF THE OECS

The Treaty of Basseterre lays out six objectives for the OECS. These are:

- To promote co-operation among the Member States and the regional and international level;
- To promote unity and solidarity among the Member States and to defend their sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence;
- To assist the Member States in the realization of their obligations and responsibilities to the international community with due regard to the role of international law as a standard of conduct in their relationships;
- To seek to achieve the fullest possible level of harmonization of foreign policy among the Member States; to seek to adopt, as far as possible, common positions on international issues and to establish and to maintain wherever possible, arrangements for joint overseas representation and/or common services;
- To promote economic integration among the Member States
- To pursue these purposes through its respective institutions by discussion of questions of common concern and by agreement and common action.

MESSAGES FROM OECS HEADS OF GOVERNMENT AND SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS



"The OECS must begin to assert its huge qualities. To be sure we have weaknesses and limitations, but we possess enormous strengths and possibilities. Our record of achievements is more than solid. Our forebears, our distinguished leaders and our international friends have brought us to this juncture of achievement hope and optimism. There is much to celebrate on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the OECS. I am confident that there is much more for us to achieve. Together Now!" Chairman of the OECS, Dr. The Hon. Ralph E. Gonsalves, Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.



Active and effective participation in the global economy requires a sub-regional institution committed to promote cooperation, unity and solidarity. This is now even more urgent, than it was 25 years ago. That the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States has endured for so long and has to its credit numerous substantial achievements is a feat worthy of recognition. Dr. Lowell Lewis Chief Minister of Montserrat



"Our sub-region has seen light and dark hours yet its social and economic advancement has been strengthened by the collaboration of all. From scanty beginnings of our sugar industries, our modern tourist and offshore financial services sectors have become the main stay of our varied but similar economies. Character is often tested in times of adversity. In our case, dismal hurricanes and devastating volcanoes have strengthened our resolve. We have acquired a platform on which we are able to hold our own on the world stage." The Hon. Baldwin Spencer, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda.



"The advances we have made through OECS initiatives in education, health, poverty alleviation, telecommunications, civil aviation, environmental sustainability, judiciary and legal reform and the strengthening of our monetary union have all worked together to fulfill national aspirations of economic and social development." The Hon. Dr. Denzil L. Douglas, Prime Minister St. Kitts & Nevis



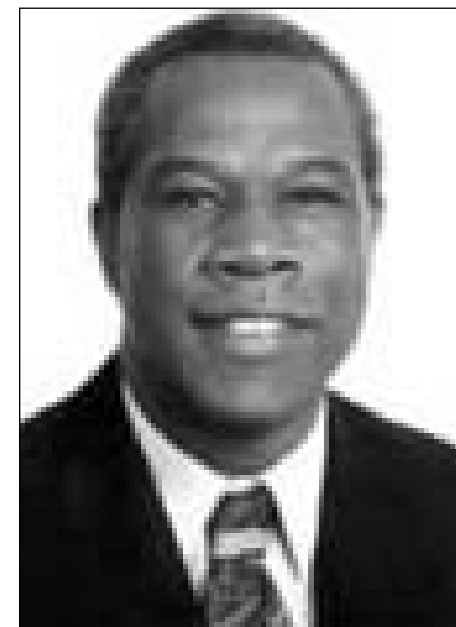
"Unity has enabled us to speak with one voice at the negotiating table. Unity and solidarity have also enabled the strong members of the OECS to help those members who experience difficulties from time to time. I can think of several occasions when the interests of the members of the OECS were best pursued by adopting a united approach. The current negotiations for concessions for all the Less Developed Countries of the OECS as a condition for joining the CARICOM Single Market and Economy will undoubtedly bring considerable benefits to the OECS." The Hon. Roosevelt Skeritt, Prime Minister of Dominica



"The OECS has managed to survive and to be successful. This feat has been due to the remarkable resilience, creativity and passion of the people of the OECS and the vision of their leaders." Dr. The Hon. Kenny D. Anthony, Prime Minister of St. Lucia



"...it is my distinct pleasure to congratulate the OECS on 25 years of achievement. As a group of states we have led the way in our approach to integration cooperation and indeed regionalism. This achievement can indeed serve as a model to the region and the rest of the world." Dr. The Hon. Keith C. Mitchell, Prime Minister of Grenada



"This 25th Anniversary is therefore a defining moment in the historical evolution of the OECS and must be a time for reflection and thanksgiving to God Almighty, as we look back from whence came as a region. Our challenge must therefore be to hold on to the gains of the past while we forge ahead in unity and solidarity to secure a better future for the people of our region." The Hon. Osborne Fleming, Chief Minister of Anguilla

Continued on page 6

MESSAGES FROM OECS HEADS OF GOVERNMENT AND SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS

Continued on pag 6



“While the OECS is rightfully proud of its many achievements of the last 25 years, your most important accomplishment has been bringing together the people of the Eastern Caribbean and recognizing our common ground” Dr. The Hon. Orlando Smith OBE, Chief Minister British Virgin Islands.



“The theory of integration in its purest state would also place the OECS on the highest rungs of the integration ladder, given the areas in which there is closest cooperation including currency and central banking.” Sir K Dwight Venner, Governor Eastern Caribbean Central Bank



“The OECS must continue to be a fortifying instrument for the Member States of this area. I would hope to see a concentration that points a new way in agriculture in these countries. Services and Tourism are going to play a very important role. The OECS in the future, by making sure that we can sustain the monetary union by making effective the economic union will demonstrate to the larger CARICOM the forms of cooperation that are possible without stepping on one another.” Dr. Vaughan Lewis, Director General, OECS Secretariat 1981-1995



“Merely to have survived 25 years is a major achievement and our organization can take due pride in this success. During these years the OECS has had to face all kinds of issues.” Swinburne A.S. Lestrade, Director General, OECS Secretariat 1995-2002



“Collectively, all of the States have benefited from the relatively large amounts of external resources that flowed into the OECS over and above what the States were receiving individually. Targeted areas for these funds included economic management, education, the environment, and solid waste management, health reform, judicial and legal reform, trade policy management, agricultural diversification and export development.” George Goodwin Jr., Acting Director General, OECS Secretariat 2002-2003



“The OECS Model for integration and regionalism has become recognized by the international community as being worthy of emulation by other groupings of Small Island Developing States. For the past twenty-five years, Member States have helped build a sub-regional institutional structure which has effectively promoted areas of common interests.” Dr. Len Ishmael, Director General, OECS Secretariat 2003-Present

OECS to launch cultural network

An online cultural network www.oecsculture.net will be launched with a major 3-day Cultural Fiesta in St. John’s Antigua as part of activities marking the OECS 25th Anniversary.

The launch begins on OECS Day, Sunday June 18 with a PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL at the Antigua Multipurpose Centre featuring top artistes from throughout the OECS, including the Antigua Dance Academy, Grenada Heritage Theatre Co., Arts Arise with poetry from St. Kitts and Nevis, Mami la Caye folk & story-telling group from St. Lucia, King DICE from Dominica, and The Red Hott Flames and Roots Steel Band from Antigua and Barbuda

Events to promote the www.oecsculture.net continue on Monday June 19 with the first ever OECS FILM FESTIVAL, featuring productions exclusively from the OECS: Sweet Mango, No Seeds (HAMA Productions, Antigua and Barbuda), Ribbons of Blue and Troubled Waters (Mathurin Emmanuel, St. Lucia) and Blinded (Anderson Quarless, Grenada). There will also be an opportunity to debate with the film makers.

On Tuesday June 20 the launch of the www.oecsculture.net will culminate with a WEB SEARCH COMPETITION, targeting the region’s youth. www.oecsculture.net, the online network of OECS Cultural practitioners, is coordinated by the OECS Secretariat and funded by the French Government in order to deepen regional integration in the OECS along with Martinique and Guadeloupe. Private sector partners in the launch include: Cable and Wireless Antigua, Premier Beverages, Saint Lucia Distilleries, The Star publishing Co St Lucia.

The web portal provides members with visibility, newsletters, news, contacts in all areas of culture, artists (music, dance, theatre, film, literature, visual arts...) promoters, studios, performance arts venues, government departments, events, etc. The web portal also opens the window to a range of useful resources for artists. Interested individuals and organizations are encouraged to explore www.oecsculture.net and to join the network, which currently comprises over 80 organisations covering thousands of persons.

Oecs business showcase

Companies in the OECS which target the regional export market get an opportunity to showcase their goods and services directly to regional buyers at an OECS Trade Exhibition in St. Kitts/Nevis, June 21st to 23rd 2006.

The OECS Export Development Unit (EDU) which is organizing the exhibition expects more than 50 businesses from across the OECS to set up display booths. In addition, EDU has received confirmation from about thirty buyers, mainly from the tourism/hospitality and distribution sectors.

The OECS export sector is targeting the regional markets as a priority market given the opportunities arising out of the recently initiated CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME). The tourism/hospitality sector is being specifically targeted as it prepares for the 2007 Cricket World Cup. The refurbishing of existing hotel plant, construction of new rooms, and the anticipated influx of visitors, are expected to offer a significant market opportunity for OECS producers in the food and beverage, furniture, garment, art and craft, music and entertainment

sectors. EDU will facilitate the interfacing of the producers with the buyers and negotiate opportunities for entry of products and services into the wider Caribbean markets.

The three-day exhibition, dubbed “Best of the OECS” will also include two workshops for participating exhibitors and buyers. The first will look at trade related issues arising from ongoing negotiations at the regional and international level, with special focus on CSME arrangements. The other will address marketing opportunities arising out of the CSME and more specifically the Cricket World Cup 2007.

The OECS-EDU has been working over the last five years in getting OECS companies export ready through interventions in management enhancement, product development, quality assurance, market research, and product promotion. Some 200 companies across the nine OECS Member States have been receiving various levels of technical assistance. Independent evaluators have confirmed that between 50 and 75 of these companies are now exports ready and positioned to enter the regional and international markets.



OECS craft on display

Increase OECS Domestic Capital Investment



Dr. Vanus James

In a dynamic and informative lecture on Wednesday June 7th, Dr. Vanus James prescribed investment in domestic capital as a useful catalyst for enhanced social and economic development in the OECS. Dr. James' address was the feature presentation at the second in the series of lectures marking the 25th Anniversary of the Signing of the Treaty of Basseterre.

Describing the OECS 25th Anniversary as "A significant development in the Caribbean's Social Landscape", the UWI Senior Lecturer, using the Sir Arthur

Lewis model as his point of departure, advised that Eastern Caribbean Countries must "think ahead and create the strategy to beat the world". He declared that democratization is the single most important form of domestic capital in which a country should invest. The Senior Research Fellow at the UWI School for Graduate Studies added that human capital in the form of years of education is one of the more important forms of domestic capital in the Caribbean. Regarding human resource development Dr. James said people in the informal business sector should be developed through relevant educational opportunities. Dr. James also noted the importance of including these persons in national decision making to ensure effective representation. He indicated there is enormous potential for growth lying outside the mainstream economy and by accommodating persons within the mainstream economy the benefits will include increased patriotism, social dialogue and investment. He cited institutional capital as a form of domestic capital investment that could help find a balance in responding to the challenges of emigration.

"The institutional capital that allows your people to share decision making is essentially about building the capital form we call a serious legislative mechanism that can regulate the behavior of the executive. Many people don't believe they are really a first class citizen from that viewpoint because they don't

really have representative institutions that allow them a say. Many of those who leave do so because they don't feel included."

James noted the pursuit of economic goals as the number one reason for the departure of many people from OECS Member Countries. However he recommends that if one follows his prescription of domestic capital investment, especially driven by education, the economy will rapidly transform and create so many opportunities that a large number of those persons who are leaving for economic reasons will find attractive reasons to stay.

"When we propose that we invest in domestic capital as the way to develop the economy we mean also that it will be a major part of the solution to the emigration problem. Not that our people should not for a mix of reasons emigrate in sufficient numbers. One of the gains we make from having our people go abroad is that we were able to build our music industry, exporting much more easily because we have pockets of reverse colonisation in the rest of the world. ..We have set up centers of life that make it easy to market our niche goods and services...But in so far as keeping most of our people here, we need our economies to grow substantially faster than they are growing now and that will only happen if we invest in appropriate domestic physical infrastructure targeting the right people and

education targeting the right groups on the scale required."

He advised that if one raises the standard of living by putting the proper systems in place, the economies of the OECS will strengthen. He remarked that investment in human capital will help to develop a niche product that the OECS Member Countries can export as well as use to attract viable investment. "Let's make sweet music and bring them here" He furthered that investing in data is among the approaches for improving the social landscape. Dr. James stated that the OECS Member Countries have a good reason to celebrate. "The OECS has a concentration of serious people".

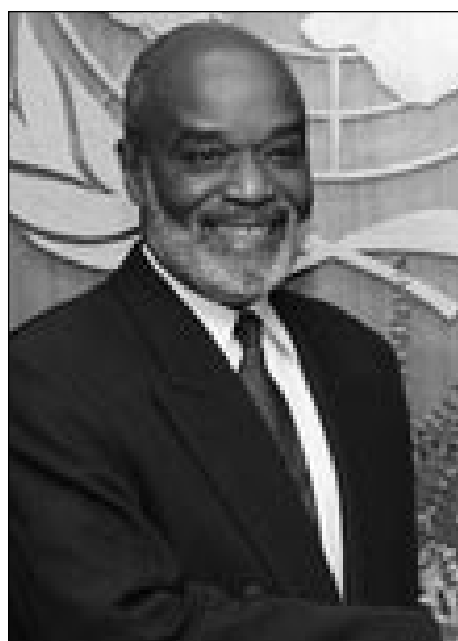
Earlier, Director of the OECS Economic Affairs Division Randy Cato highlighted the many accomplishments achieved by the OECS have been modeled by many including the European Community. This is the second in the series of lecture presentations. Grenada hosted the first OECS 25th Anniversary lecture under the auspices of the OECS Bar Association.

With the generous support of Scotia bank and Caribbean Money Market Brokers (CMMB) the OECS 25th Anniversary lecture series is part of the public awareness and participation exercises to enhance public involvement in issues regarding the regional integration process. Check www.oecs.org for more on Dr. James' address.

SAINT LUCIA NORMALISES RELATIONS WITH HAITI

Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Anthony has declared that relations between Saint Lucia and Haiti have returned to normal, following the Presidential elections in Haiti earlier this year which brought Renee Preval to power and Preval's appointment of a new Government last week. The Prime Minister added that the international community must however come to the assistance of Haiti in what is going to be a long hard road to normalcy. Prime Minister Anthony's remarks come after the Caricom Secretariat in Georgetown had issued statement re-admitting Haiti to the Councils of the Caribbean Community. The statement reads:

"Heads of Government of the Ca-



President René Préval

ibbean Community have welcomed the return to constitutional rule in Haiti through the election of a president and of parliamentary representatives in the course of an electoral process deemed by the people of Haiti and the international community as free and fair.

The Senate and Lower House have recently ratified the candidacy of Mr. Jacques Edouard Alexis as Prime Minister designated by President René Préval.

Heads of Government wish to congratulate the people of Haiti who through their patience, resolve and courage demonstrated their attachment to the democratic process by exercising their franchise to determine their representatives at the presidential and legislative levels. The Community looks forward to the election of local and municipal representatives so that

the constitutional architecture of representation can be completed.

With the return to constitutional rule in Haiti, and in keeping with the principled position it took following the interruption of the democratic process on 29 February 2004, the Caribbean Community looks forward to Haiti's resumption of its place in its Councils.

In keeping with the Community's usual practice, as one of the Heads of Government elected since the last meeting of the Conference in February of this year, His Excellency René Préval has been invited not only to take Haiti's rightful place in the Conference on the occasion of the Twenty-Seventh Meeting scheduled to be held in St. Kitts and Nevis on 3-6 July 2006, but also to address the Opening Ceremony.

Universal access to AIDS treatment by 2010

Prime Minister of St. Kitts and Nevis and Chair of Pan Caribbean Partnership Against HIV/AIDS (PANCAP), the Hon. Dr. Denzil Douglas committed the Caribbean to the goal of universal access to prevention, care, treatment and support for every man, woman and child by 2010.

According to the Prime Minister, "by 2010 [the Caribbean] would have reaped the benefits of a harmonised international partnership" and "every country would have introduced supportive legislation and a policy framework to protect vulnerable populations, such as men who have sex with men, commercial

sex workers and prisoners, the disabled and children."

The Prime Minister who has the CARICOM portfolio for Health, including HIV/AIDS Human Resources was speaking on 2 June at the High-level Plenary Meeting on HIV/AIDS, at the United Nations (UN) Headquarters in New York.

He identified international partnerships evidenced by alignment of programmes and funding requirements, sustained international financing, prevention strategies and an increase in human resource capacity as necessary for the achievement of the goal of universal access.

Dr Douglas also called for the eligibility criteria imposed by multilateral



Vitamin supplements to slow down the HIV Virus

and bilateral agencies, which disqualify medium-income countries such as Barbados and The Bahamas from access to front line awards, to be challenged.

Since February 2004, there has been

more than a 50 percent increase in the number of people living with HIV/AIDS on treatment in the Region. However access remains unequal across the Region.

CWC 2007 WORKSHOPS ENTHUSIASM



Participants at the Communications Workshop (left) and at the opening of the ICC's Venue Summit IX (right)

Last week, Cricket World Cup St. Lucia hosted the ICC's IX Venue Summit as West Indian territories continued their preparations for the 2007 Cricket World Cup to be held in the region. The summit was held from the 5 - 9th June and brought together representatives of all the Local Organising Committees in the territories staging the matches in the tournament.

In addition to a meeting of the Council of Chief Executive Officers (CEO's) of the Local Organising Committees, there were workshops for officials from the various sector teams working for the World Cup. Two of these were Corporate Communications and Cricket Operations. Participants from both these sectors were enthused with the outcome of their meetings as the following reports indicate.

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT FOR CRICKET OPERATIONS

The Cricket Operations Forum III ended last Friday, following two intensive days of presentations.

The forum, led by Michael Hall, Cricket Operations Director for ICC Cricket World Cup 2007 and his team, had a total of 24 delegates. Attendees came from each of the Local Organising Committees (LOCs) in the nine Host Venues and the respective territorial cricket boards.

Day one focussed on a number of key issues pertaining to the management and movement of teams during the tournament including airport and hotel protocols, the requirements for practice sessions as well as an overview of match day logistics.

Roland Holder, Cricket Operations Manager at ICC CWC WI 2007 Inc., was one of the presenters at the forum and provided an enlightening view of some of the core elements that need to be in place for a practice venue.

"It gave me an opportunity to reiterate the importance of providing the teams with a good experience during their practice sessions. They are intensive exercises and there needs to be absolutely no doubt that the LOC Cricket

Operations Managers are responsible for ensuring that all the players' needs are met," he said.

Holder, a former Barbados and West Indies batsman, elaborated on these needs saying they "range from the obvious matter of working with the groundsmen to ensuring pitches remain in excellent condition for the duration of the period they are used, or keeping players supplied with refreshments and also details like having cups and ice in place."

The participants were each asked to provide an update which they presented on day two. Each presentation was followed by a question-and-answer session. Lennox John of the St. Vincent & the Grenadines LOC was one of the satisfied attendees.

"The forum offers a good reinforcement of things we may have already been aware of but the actual presentations really allowed me to understand the importance of all the factors. There is such diversity in all of the LOCs and the opportunity to hear from my counterparts means I now know where they are with all of their preparations."

As a Warm-up venue, St. Vincent & the Grenadines will be part of creating that key 'first impression' for teams, officials and media. The importance of this is clear to John.

"Coming out of the workshop I am encouraged and feel an even greater incentive to carry on and ensure we are finished and ready for Warm-ups. The goal for the St. Vincent & the Grenadines LOC is to be the best warm-up venue ever."

CWC 2007 COMMUNICATIONS MANAGERS SHARE EXPERIENCES

The three-day Corporate Communications Workshop V opened last Wednesday with delegates from all nine Host Venues in attendance. Communications Managers from all of the Local Organising Committees (LOCs) spent the morning updating each other on the communications activities taking place in their respective territories. The forum

afforded them the opportunity to share creative ideas and highlight successes in the roll-out of their programmes as well as identifying country-specific challenges which they face.

"Spending time with my counterparts from the other Host Venues in this type of forum is of huge benefit. It is great to see and hear about the roll-out of each LOC's specific programmes. There is a lot of work being done at the grass roots level right across the region. It was useful to be able to each share some of the daily challenges we face as individual Host Venues that may not be so apparent from a regional perspective. It means we benefit from hearing about everyone's experiences. For example, a creative idea that has been successful in one country might be something we can think about adapting and applying ourselves," noted Communications Manager of St. Vincent & the Grenadines LOC, Elson Crick.

The group sessions then saw participants collectively working through some of the communications issues surrounding the delivery of the tournament, as well as shining the spotlight on best practices. Planning and management of crisis communications formed the foundation for the afternoon session as the delegates were led through a training session facilitated by Alison Saunders-Franklyn of SFA Communications.

Key learnings included agreement on why crisis planning is necessary, issues monitoring in order to correctly identify potential crises and key actions to be undertaken in the event of a crisis. "Being prepared to deal with a crisis in the run up to a tournament of this size is very important," commented Jennifer Gaston of the Saint Lucia LOC. "One of the key things we covered was the fact that this tournament has so many stakeholders and that as a result while we are clear on what the roles of CWC and LOCs are, we now need ensure that in each country we hold a strategic crisis planning session with organisations who have an interest in various aspects of the delivery of this tournament, so that everyone knows where the lines of communication are demarcated."



THIS WEEK ON NTN

Sat. May 10th to Fri. June 16th, 2006

NTN – PROVIDING INFORMATION YOU NEED

The NIC explains the concept of the Emerald Housing Development and fields questions from potential buyers - Sat. June 3rd, 12:00 noon

Operation Miracle: The Cuban Eye care Programme - Sun. June 4th - 11:30 a.m.

The Health Centres Project – A national refurbishment of health centres is ongoing – find out more on – Mon. June 5th – 8:00 p.m.

Rebroadcast: "Feedback" We spotlight the elderly – Tues. June 6th, 9:00 p.m.

Living well with diabetes: A must for diabetics - Wed. June 8th, 6:15 p.m.

AgriFocus: "Water in the Valley" – Thurs. June 9th, 7:30 p.m.

King & Queen of the Bands 2005 – Fri. June 10th, 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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