

SAINT LUCIA/CHINA SIGN NEW \$6.7 MILLION COOPERATION AGREEMENT

SEE PAGE 3



Senator Calixte George

HOME AFFAIRS MINISTER: CRIME REQUIRES COMPREHENSIVE RESPONSE AND ACTION

Minister for Home Affairs and Internal Security, Senator Calixte George on Monday delivered an address to open a regional training workshop on Inter American Tourism and Recreational Facilities Security. The workshop was organized by the Organization of American States (OAS). In his wide ranging address, the Minister looked at solutions to crime, the importance of the tourism sector in the economy of St. Lucia, short term initiatives that have been taken by the Government against crime, the handling of crime in the Tourism Sector and security

at major sporting events. The following are excerpts from his address.

“I am very pleased to address you on this very important occasion which has brought together both private and public sector officials from the Tourism and Security sectors from the Bahamas in the North to Trinidad and Tobago in the South, and with several other Countries in between; to establish strategic alliances, exchange ideas and acquire new skills and competencies, to provide more effective Security in the Tourism and Recreational Services Sector. These Sectors have fast been providing a livelihood to thousands of citizens in our respective countries, whether in the banking and insurance sectors, or in Government, the hotels, restaurants, taxi drivers, vendors or whatever else.

The provision of Security Services is to ensure the protection and safety of our citizens and visitors alike and their properties.

Deviant behaviour, crime and violence also creates a higher demand for security services.

It is important to stress however, that crime must be addressed within a long-term development plan with significant emphasis on social development.

Equally important too, is the need for a set of continuous strategic responsive action over the long term.

The same is true whether you are in Australia, the UK, the United States or St. Lucia.

Mistakes are easy to find in hindsight, but the task to remedy the upsurge in crime worldwide, which has

created this overwhelming demand for security services must of necessity be tackled within a framework of critical examination, analysis and timely responsive action with an appreciable high level of precision.

One may ask - How much should a Police Officer being requested to investigate a crime rely on the hunches or intuition of citizens? Crime is complex and requires an equally comprehensive response and comprehensive strategic action in all areas. Short and medium term measures will of course provide quick immediate impact; but will not be the solution”.

See page 2 for other excerpt



“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



SOME INITIATIVES ON SHORT-TERM PREVENTATIVE MEASURES WITH IMMEDIATE MEDIUM AND LONG-TERM IMPACT ON CRIME

Excerpt from the address by Home Affairs Minister, Hon. Calixte George, at a regional training workshop on Inter American Tourism and Recreational Facilities Security

"In the prevention of crimes against our visitors and residents alike, some of the more profound action we have already undertaken in the short-term to deter and minimize transborder international crimes, and in particular white collar and other organized crime, and other serious crimes include the introduction of a Passenger Tracking and Watch List system, which will provide the capability for our Enforcement Agencies — Police, Customs, Air and Sea Ports Authorities to monitor and facilitate active surveillance of undesirables entering this country.

We have also recently completed extensive work in preparation for the introduction of our new machine readable passports and the corresponding System to cover this particular process. Both of those new systems are backed up by State-Of-the Art technological engineering.

The processes for the new Passenger Tracking and Watch list System and the Machine Readable Processing System were developed within the framework of the standards prescribed by the International Community and in particular the International Civil Aviation Authority (ICAO).

As I speak, work is currently in progress for the introduction of a State-Of-the-Art Automated Fingerprinting System, referred to as the (AFIS) which will not only complement the work of the Criminal Investigation Department; but also the enforcement activities at the borders, which will from time to time require fast track fingerprinting processes.

Shortly after my appointment as Minister for Home Affairs and Internal Security in January 2004, I held a number of consultations with key



Police Officers on Parade

stakeholders which included the Saint Lucia Hotel and Tourism Association, the Ministry of Tourism and the Saint Lucia Tourist Board.

This consultation proved to be a particularly valuable exercise and I am pleased to announce that two new Units, the Tourism Related Crime Unit the (TRCU) and the Victim Support Unit (VSU) are being established before the end of this year, within the Royal Saint Lucia Police Force to reinforce the work of the Police on the prevention, abatement and detection of crime against our visitors, as well as our own citizens.

Both of these Units will undoubtedly enhance and strengthen communication between the Police and the Tourism and Hotel sector, and facilitate in

a more profound and effective manner, the joint collaborative initiatives which will be undertaken by the Hotel and Tourism sector and the Police.

As part of Government's strategic approach to crime fighting in the areas of prevention, abatement and detection; a deliberate policy of a yearly recruitment of Police Officers, have been effected over the past nine years, to immediately provide replacement for Police Officers who may have resigned, retired or may have been dismissed. Over this nine year period, a total of approximately (500) new Police Officers have been recruited. Only last month, (65) new Police Recruits graduated from the Police Training Academy and (65) more new Recruits commenced their six month Training Recruitment

Program on the 4 of this month.

Of great significance also, it is important to note that one of the components of our Preventive Crime Strategy included a complete overhaul of the Police Recruitment and Selection Processes.

In essence, no longer can persons wishing to be recruited or enlisted to the Royal Saint Lucia Police Force, qualify base on who they know.

You will appreciate, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, that the business of Security as it relates to the functions of the State, and Government's responsibility to its citizens and visitors alike, must be a serious and non-subjective business.

Therefore, the protection of the lives of our citizens and our visitors, and their property must be conducted by persons of the highest level of integrity".

Des Barras Turtle Watch Programme Under Threat

Poachers of the leather back turtles on the Grande Anse Beach are threatening the livelihood of those who gain a source of income from the Des Barras Turtle Watch Programme.

The Department of Fisheries says recently a number of alarming reports has reached the department, informing that turtles are being hunted and destroyed at the beach, well known as a turtle watching attraction site.

However the department laments that this is not the first time such activity has been brought to their attention, despite regular advisories over the media to educate people on turtle conservation.

Chief Fisheries Officer Vaughn Charles says this is a worrying development. "We have received these reports before and we have attempted to address them through the surveillance officers within our ministry and assistance from the marine police and the district police. Recently there were a number of tours being provided by the Des Barras community, the Des Barras tour guides- they had the

turtle watch programmes along with the Saint Lucia Heritage Programme but that has since been disrupted by those poachers who come onto the beach in search of nestling turtles.

To compound this problem, Mr. Charles says naturally the turtle population is in grave danger of being seriously depleted once the cycle of reproduction is interrupted.

"It creates a problem in terms of the sustainability of that resource because there has to be a certain level of rejuvenation and that does not take place. We have indicated to those persons who are involved in that practice that it's against the law, it's in contravention of Fisheries Regulations No.9 of 1994 and there's a fine. You can be fined \$5,000.00."

The Fisheries Department says based on its investigations the killing of the turtles seems be motivated mainly by mischief — makers rather than persons seeking some form of economic benefit.

Those persons are being asked to desist from this practice.

Aid To Body Building Association

The Department of Youth and Sports has lived up to its promise to the newly elected St. Lucia Amateur Body Building Association to assist it in updating its affiliation fees with international and regional body building organizations accumulated after the sport became non-active for a number of years. The Department presented the association with a five thousand dollar cheque last week to help it fulfil its commitments to the international and regional organisations.

President of the Association Edmund Sidonie has commended the Department of Youth and Sports for its sterling support in re-energizing

the sport on the island.

"In fact they are the ones who actually initiated the whole idea of bringing back resource persons from the body building fraternity together to ensure that this became a reality, and I must say that am very proud of their contribution. I know that Michael "Midget" Pierre and the Permanent Secretary, Henry Mangal, have worked much in making that happen."

Mr. Sidonie says his association has presented the Department of Youth and Sports with a copy of its strategic plan for their perusal. He says the ministry has given its commitment to assisting some of the proposals that have been outlined in the document.

Education Officials Study Career Booklet

Counsellors and teachers have been formally introduced to the career key booklet, a self assessment tool that helps users determine what career paths to select in keeping with personality types. Author of the Career Key, Dr. Lawrence Jones and the publisher of the Caribbean version, Angela Defrietas, are currently on a promotion campaign which includes Barbados and the Windward islands.

In encouraging the schools to use the Career key as a career guidance tool for students, Dr. Jones told the gathering that research supports the belief that people lead more successful and satisfying careers if they are naturally

suited to what they do.

"One of the things that we want to do is to direct students toward families of occupations that fit their personality, that expands the occupations that they might not have thought of. Beyond that, there are a number of well established best practices that are used by professional counsellors that are described in this booklet, for example on page 16 you see a description of keeping a career portfolio."

The Career Key booklet lists six personality types including; Realistic, Investigative, Artistic, Social, Enterprising and Conventional personalities.

Saint Lucia - China Sign New \$6.7 Million Cooperation Agreement

St. Lucia and the Peoples Republic of China have reaffirmed their diplomatic relations with the conclusion of a new 6.7 million technical and economic cooperation agreement between the two countries. The agreement was signed at the Sandals Regency by Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Anthony and the Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing during the latter's one day official visit to St. Lucia last Sunday. Under the agreement China commits itself to advancing the 20 million yuan (Chinese currency) for projects which are to be agreed upon and implemented in St. Lucia.

Addressing Sunday's signing ceremony, Prime Minister Honourable Dr. Kenny Anthony said the island's nine-year relationship with the People's Republic of China has helped to change lives in St. Lucia and has made a vital and clear difference in the development of the country. Speaking on the future of the relationship, he said: "I too look forward to deepening ties with the People's Republic of China, not only in the technical affairs, not only in the political affairs but more importantly between our peoples whether it be reflected in culture or be reflected in exchanges between our people over time."



Prime Minister Anthony and China's Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing at the signing ceremony

Through the establishment of diplomatic ties with China, St. Lucia has benefited from the construction of a

free zone area and a national stadium in Vieux Fort and a new psychiatric hospital is currently being built by the

Chinese. A cultural complex is also due once the new hospital is completed. Since St. Lucia severed ties with the Republic of China on Taiwan nine years ago to commence relations with Beijing, several other countries in the region have joined St. Lucia in establishing diplomatic relations with China and Prime Minister Anthony commented on the Taiwan issue. He said: "The policy of recognizing Taiwan is not only a bankrupt policy but it is contrary to the appropriate resolution of the United Nations".

Meanwhile the China's Minister for Foreign Affairs Li Zhaoxing expressed satisfaction with his country's nine-year relationship with St. Lucia, adding,

"The government of China is ready and willing to work with you to further enhance our bi-lateral cooperation and to intensify our efforts to have an even closer coordination and cooperation on major international and regional issues."

As part of his inaugural trip to St. Lucia, Mr. Zhaoxing paid a courtesy call on Governor General Her Excellency Dame Pearlette Louisy and also met with Minister for Commerce, Investment, Consumer Affairs and Tourism Honourable Philip J Pierre.

AIMING FOR CHEAPER ELECTRICITY WITH PETRO CARIBE

St. Lucia's Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Anthony has declared that his government is hoping to use the PetroCaribe agreement, which is to be signed soon between Saint Lucia and Venezuela, to try to reduce the cost of electricity to St. Lucian households. A Venezuelan delegation led by an official of the Venezuelan state oil company, Petroleos de Venezuela (PDVSA) was in St. Lucia Thursday to meet with Prime Minister Anthony and members of the Energy Task Force led by Managing Director of the St. Lucia Electricity Services Company Limited (LUCELEC) Mr Trevor Louisy and Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Commerce, Mr Louis Lewis.

The Government of Saint Lucia remains concern about the spiralling cost of fuel on the world market and has explored measures to reduce the cost of this vital resource to consumers. The negotiations have now concluded and the road is now clear for the signing of the bilateral agreement to govern St. Lucia's access to a cheaper source of petroleum-based energy.

In a statement following the meeting, the Prime Minister said the fuel to be received under PetroCaribe will be partly utilised to reduce the cost of electricity to the average Saint Lucian. Dr. Anthony said cheaper electricity for Saint Lucians is an immediate goal of his government. "As far as the Government is concerned, our priority will be to try to get a cheaper fuel to LUCEEC so that they can reduce the cost of generation of of electricity."

He said this course was being taken "because it is really the fuel surcharge that is causing a lot of the pain to ordinary citizens." He said the dialogue



St. Lucian Energy Task Force officials, Prime Minister Anthony and the Venezuelan Delegation

held here with the PDVSA officials was part of ensuring the systems are in place to achieved the desired outcome of reducing electricity costs for Saint Lucians.

Under the terms of the bilateral agreement, a local joint company will be established with responsibility for accessing the fuel from Venezuela, as well as supplying LUCELEC with it's requirements. St. Lucia is signing on to the agreement after several other CAR-

ICOM countries have already done so. Dr Anthony says it is an opportunity to learn from the experiences of other territories already benefiting from the agreement.

The Alba Fund, which is part of the PetroCaribe Fund was also discussed with the visiting delegation. Prime Minister Anthony says the fund presents the opportunity for government to access additional financing for social sector development projects. The Gov-

ernment of St. Lucia has aggressively pursued funding for poverty eradication, as well as to address prevention and treatment of HIV and AIDS.

The PetroCaribe agreement will provide 1,700 barrels per day of petroleum-based products, which will be stored at the Cul-De-Sac facility owned by Hess Oil (St. Lucia) Ltd. Under PetroCaribe, the Venezuelans will provide 62% of the island's petroleum-based energy needs.

STATEMENT TO THE 61ST SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY NEW YORK

BY SENATOR THE HON. PETRUS COMPTON MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND CIVIL AVIATION OF SAINT LUCIA, SEPTEMBER 26, 2006



External Affairs Minister
Petrus Compton

At this our 61st Session we seek to re-affirm our commitment to this notion of partnership as a significant modality for the attainment of our common goals. Saint Lucia is satisfied that the idea of partnership clearly accommodates the spirit of multilateralism which is the defining principle of our relationship within the United Nations.

This multilateralist spirit must constantly be safeguarded and fortified and this can only be accomplished by a strong and confident UN. Saint Lucia takes this opportunity to once again express its determined support for the programme of reform of the UN, designed as these are to create the capacity and conditions for the exercise of a strong central role by the UN within the international community.

We salute the achievements to date, viz, the replacement of the moribund Human Rights Commission with the new Human Rights Council and the establishment of the Peace-building Commission. We recognize that these bodies are far from perfect and will require continued attention by Member States, however, they reflect our determination to translate talk into action.

Saint Lucia looks forward to continuing the discussions on the remaining items on our reform agenda, in particular Security Council reform, strengthening and refocusing of the General Assembly, the empowerment of ECOSOC and management reform.

Madame President, Saint Lucia continues to believe in the wisdom of the words of our distinguished Secretary General, who in his March 2005 report, In Larger Freedom, opined "We will not enjoy development without security, we will not enjoy security without development and we will not enjoy either without respect for human rights. Unless all these causes are advanced, none will succeed." As we seek to develop partnerships for development, utilising the MDGs as the benchmark for that development, Saint Lucia has been moving steadily towards the attainment of some of these goals.

Universal primary education has been largely attained and we have gone further to introduce a programme of universal access to free secondary education for our young citizens.

In the area of health, Saint Lucia is in the process of establishing a universal Programme of free health care, and has made significant progress in the area of maternal and child health. We are also working steadfastly in the battle against HIV/AIDS through education, early detection and treatment programmes, and the provision of free or subsidized anti-retroviral drugs.

All of these efforts have been bolstered, in a practical demonstration of South-South cooperation, through generous support and assistance from a number of developing countries in the areas of human resource development in the health sector and the construction of new health facilities which will greatly enhance our ability to provide

comprehensive health care services to all of our people. South-South partnerships are workable; we need to continue to develop and widen these for the betterment of developing countries.

Madame President, Saint Lucia applauds the return of Haiti to democratic governance. This long-awaited development has led to the re-admission of that country to the Councils of the Caribbean Community. We recognize that the road to normalcy in Haiti will be a long and tortuous one requiring a sustained political focus by the international community.

Saint Lucia calls for the speedy release of development resources promised to that country in order that its government and people may tackle in a meaningful way, the numerous obstacles standing in the way of its development.

Madame President, Saint Lucia welcomes the final document emanating from the 14th Summit Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Non Aligned Movement in Havana earlier this month.

This historic Meeting addressed a wide range of regional and international issues including the sanctity of international law, the promotion and preservation of multilateralism, peaceful settlement of disputes, the right to self-determination, and decolonisation.

The summit offered concrete and innovative proposals on the reform of the United Nations, including the modernisation of the Security Council, and



Gratitude expressed to UN SG
Kofi Annan who is leaving office

the Economic and Social Council.

The final document of the NAM Summit provides the international community with a workable roadmap



Haitian President Renee Preval
– Support for release of
development funds

for the development agenda far into this new century, with achievable solutions to many of the issues facing humankind today.

Madame President, Saint Lucia also welcomes the report of the Secretary-General on the Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development 2005, and in so doing we call upon the developed countries represented at that forum to honour the commitments made at this and previous UN Summits and Conferences on trade, debt and finance, especially their promise to fulfill the goal of 0.7% of Gross Domestic Product to Official Development Assistance. We believe it is imperative that the international community increase its efforts at addressing the indebtedness of poor developing countries; promote foreign direct investment flows to a greater number of developing countries and address the systemic deficiencies in the global economic and financial system. These deficiencies Madame President all constitute serious threats to the survival of developing countries, especially those within the Caribbean area.

Madame President, Small Island Developing States (SIDS) such as those in the Caribbean, the Pacific and Indian oceans, and in the Mediterranean, are extremely vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Whilst those of us residing in the tropics, in small islands and low-lying coastal areas are endangered daily through the impact of sea level rise, others are faced with unprecedented and accelerated thawing of ice caps, and the consequent loss of land mass.

We have already reached a dangerous level of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere, and urgent action is required to reverse this situation.

In this connection, the international community, and in particular our developed partners need to take more aggressive action to promote the development and distribution of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies in developed and developing countries alike. To assist developing countries in playing its part in this connection, there is need for the establishment of a global renewable energy and energy efficiency fund.

St. Lucia joins with our colleague members of the Alliance of Small Island States, and other affected states, in calling for the international community to address the issues of sea level rise and climate change as a matter of urgency.

Madame President, The international community must honour its responsibility and commitment to the full implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. We insist on the urgent and proper mainstreaming of the Strategy into the respective work programmes of the United Nations agencies and other bodies. Those who are the largest producers of greenhouse gases must bear the responsibility for the damage they are causing to the global environment, and in particular to the vulnerable countries whose sustainability – and very existence -- is increasingly endangered by these unsustainable practices.

From our own regional perspective, St. Lucia welcomes the adoption of measures for the promotion of an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development. We welcome initiatives taken to this end by the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), and institutions and bodies of the United Nations.

Madame President, Half a decade into the 21st Century, there still some 16 Non-Self-Governing Territories under the review of the General Assembly. Most of these are small island territories in the Caribbean and Pacific regions. Their decolonisation through a genuine process of self-determination is the unfinished agenda of the United Nations. In this connection, Article 73 (b) of the United Nations Charter on the necessity of promoting genuine self-government should be respected. We call on the administering Powers to increase the level of cooperation with the Special Committee on Decolonisation, and call on the relevant bodies of the United Nations system to assist the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the development of their capacity for self government, and in furtherance of their process of self-determination.

Madame President, The year 2007 will mark the 200th anniversary of the

abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade which began the process of the abolition of slavery in the British Empire. A number of international events are being planned throughout the globe to honour the memory of the millions who died during the Middle Passage, and those who subsequently perished under the horrors of chattel slavery in the Caribbean and the Americas. This scourge was recognised by the international community as a crime against humanity in the outcome document of the 2001 World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance.

St. Lucia joins with the countries of the African Diaspora in the Caribbean, and with other like-minded countries, in supporting a United Nations commemoration in 2007 of the abolition of the trans-Atlantic Slave Trade.

Madame President, St. Lucia and other neighboring countries have been seriously impacted by rulings of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) adversely affecting the access of our banana exports to preferential markets. Few in the developed world can appreciate the mass social dislocation which this decision has caused, with thousands of independent farmers, employers in their own right, left without a livelihood, through no fault of their own. Consider that for every banana farmer in Saint Lucia who has lost his/her livelihood, at least four to five persons have also been excised from direct participation in the economic system. The WTO has become synonymous with pain and suffering for farmers and other related economic agents in countries like St. Lucia. In many instances, the implementation of WTO obligations has created more hardship and poverty than previously existed.

Accordingly, whilst economic and trade policy reform, in principle, hold much promise for small developing countries, the international community must come to grips with the fact that the "one size fits all" approach is inappropriate and impractical. In this connection, a set of trading rules flexible enough to take into account the concerns of small states must be enacted. The principle of "special and differential treatment" must infuse all aspects of the new trade rules which we are seeking to create.

Madame President, There is much unfinished business ahead of us. It is our expectation that the members of this august body will focus even more intently on the development of appropriate strategies for their resolution. We are confident that under your esteemed guidance and leadership the development agenda of this organization will be advanced further.

For our part, Saint Lucia remains committed to the ideals of multilateralism and reaffirms its view that this multilateral body, the United Nations, offers the best opportunity for the achievement of peace, security and sustainable development for all.



A St. Lucian banana farmer: The WTO accused of causing pain and suffering to farmers in countries like St. Lucia

Prime Minister's Efforts On Bananas Lauded

Lead CARICOM Head on Bananas and St. Vincent's Prime Minister Honourable Ralph Gonsalves has paid tribute to Prime Minister Honourable Dr. Kenny Anthony and the St. Lucian Government for their efforts in sustaining the regional banana industry despite the odds.

Dr. Gonsalves spoke at a recent CARICOM led meeting in St. Lucia to formulate a strategy that will keep Caribbean bananas viable on the international market.

"Prime Minister Anthony, historically and in the contemporary period, has been a titan in defence and promotion of the banana industry in the Caribbean and certainly in the Windward Islands; and I personally would like to commend him for his input for the preparation for this meeting and the guidance which he has given to me, because he has been a tower of strength on this subject, and I want to thank him very much and his government for his frankly extraordinary efforts in helping to keep the banana industry alive, consolidate it, to move forward and to diversify agriculture around bananas, not away from it."

The CARICOM meeting on bananas as well as subsequent meeting on the subject will also aid the region in mounting a stronger diplomatic front in Brussels.



Prime Minister Kenny Anthony



Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves

CARIBBEAN CIVILISATION: AN EXAMPLE TO THE WORLD

EXCERPT FROM REMARKS BY H.E. EDWIN W. CARRINGTON, SECRETARY-GENERAL, CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM), AT THE ALLIANCE FOR CIVILISATION SEMINAR, 25TH SEPTEMBER 2006, SAINT LUCIA

A Civilisation has been defined in number of different ways. Generally, it may be seen as a highly complex society involving processes of domestication; organisation of cities; division of labour; development of economic exchange (trade), technology and communication; formation of social organisation; establishment of organised religion and education systems, etc. according to Wikipedia Encyclopedia, 2006.

Alternatively, civilisation may be defined as a system of values inclusive of a world of forms and codes of behaviour, rules and exceptions according to Octavio la Paz, Mexican Laureate for Literature and author of the Labyrinth of Solitude and other Writings. La Paz admits however, that "the reality to which we give the name Civilisation does not allow of easy definition". This, perhaps, explain why some find difficulty in acknowledging that there is a Caribbean civilisation, especially as too often civilisations are associated with imperium.

The current phenomenon of globalisation, bringing as it does all countries into a more integrated and united global economy and exerting similar pressures in the cultural sphere risks igniting conflicts between Civilisations. Amartya Sen, the Indian-born Nobel Prize winner and Harvard Professor of Economics and Philosophy, has observed that the creed of multiculturalism has in effect become a kind of "plural monoculturism". In such a situation so-called minority communities have often been pressured and isolated from the mainstream.

Perhaps, most important of all the issues of Alliance of Civilisations or more directly, Clash of Civilisations has critical implications for international peace and security – a subject on which I sus-



H.E. Edwin Carrington

pect a number of you present would be expounding during this seminar. This raises the fundamental issue of human rights, which is common to most peoples, and to their wish to live freely and securely in a just and peaceful world. It cannot therefore be disregarded being a principle that underpins the functioning of most communities, societies and civilisations.

Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves in a brilliant lecture, "Our Caribbean Civilisation and its Political Prospects" to

inaugurate the Distinguished Lecture Series commemorating the thirtieth anniversary of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) has left us in no doubt that there is a Caribbean Civilisation sui generis, a position earlier affirmed by the former Barbados Prime Minister Errol Walton Barrow in his 1986 magnificent and decisive speech at the Miami Caribbean Conference - "the Caribbean is, after all, a civilisation".

The Caribbean Civilisation represents an evolution of migrant peoples primarily from three continents — Africa, Europe and Asia – into a relatively integrated society by a process of adaptation thereby making the content and form essentially Caribbean (creolisation). It is that historical process of adaptation, assimilation and integration that makes it unique – sui generis.

Therefore, as we know it today, while the Caribbean civilisation has the imprint of slavery, indentureship and colonialism, we the peoples of the Caribbean have been fortunate to resist the worst of such pressures and have been able to co-exist in relative harmony. And this, also, despite the pressures and our different cultural and religious backgrounds and practices. We have also not experienced for example, significant civilisation conflicts as the Balkans or tribal clashes as with the Tutsis and Hutus.

Within the context of Caribbean civilisation we are dealing with a mix of people and nation-states at varying levels of socio-economic development and ecological vulnerability. In the attempt to determine our own pathways, to create a more viable Caribbean Civilisation, we have flirted over the years with many forms of integration; including West Indies Federation, a Caribbean Free Trade Area (CARIFTA) and the Carib-

bean Community and Common Market (CARICOM).

Today, we have transformed the Common market into Single Market, and intend by 2008 to establish the framework for a Single Economy. No other grouping of developing countries have taken such fundamental integration steps and indeed, only the European Union has so far gone this far among the nations of the world. This realisation of a dream of togetherness by our political forefathers speak of remarkable alliances achieved with the help of friends, within a part of the Caribbean Civilisation despite its many levels of difficulties.

The issues on which we deliberate today and tomorrow at this Seminar reflect a concern for first and foremost, human and social functioning. In this regard, our Caribbean Community still has a long way to go, particularly as we seek to provide an adequate place for the youth of our society. The feelings of apathy of many, their perception of themselves as dispossessed and marginalised are possible danger points, particularly in a world torn by conflict and strife, graft and corruption and one in which there is a perception of no hope for meaningful change in their lives. These youths are the ones who are most vulnerable to predators, to ideologies that seem to force on the world only certain types revolutionary change.

Therefore, as we ponder the issue of alliance versus collisions of civilisations, we of the Caribbean Civilisation have a small chance to demonstrate to the world that peoples of different races, cultures and religions can live together not simply live side by side and can even forge a Partnership of Civilisations and Culture – a true Alliance of Civilisations.

Cricket Legacy Strategy Bowled Off

Saint Lucia 2015, the nation’s cricket legacy strategy, was rolled out during a ceremonial launch last Friday morning at the Beausejour Cricket Grounds. Saint Lucia 2015 is the roadmap to sustain legacy benefits which the country can achieve through the hosting of mega sports events such as the ICC Cricket World Cup in 2007.

The development of a Legacy Strategy was assigned by the Saint Lucia Government to the National Development Corporation (NDC), which is supported in the deployment of the strategy by a Leadership Team, which also comprises Cricket World Cup Saint Lucia 2007, the Ministry of Tourism, Saint Lucia Tourist Board, Saint Lucia Heritage Tourism Programme, Cultural Development Foundation, BOOST, Sports Saint Lucia Inc and the St Lucia National Cricket Association.

Significant to the focus of the legacy strategy is that it addresses the rapid onset of key traditional and non-traditional economic sectors in the context

of Saint Lucia’s long term national goals and is leveraged in the spotlight of Cricket World Cup 2007.

The collaborating agencies have designed eleven practical initiatives around Saint Lucia’s core development goals, the key elements of which will be active development programmes administered through the leadership team agencies beyond the World Cup Cricket, through to 2015. These include Development of Creative Industries.

The Simply Beautiful Ambassador Programme, Sports and Special Event Strategy, Cricket Roadshow and SportsKids Programme, Community Branding, a Global Linkages strategy, Cricket School Network, Cricket Development Fund and Tourism Promotion to New Markets.

The Caribbean Business Club St. Lucia, and the Caribbean Business Opportunity Service (CBOS) are two business initiatives of regional geographic spread, which were also launched this morning. CBOS and the Caribbean Business Club form a core part of the



Prime Minister Kenny Anthony and Governor General Dame Pearlette Louisy



NDC Mangaging Director Wayne Vitalis and CEO of Cricket World Cup St. Lucia Ernest Hilaire



Chairman of CWCSL, Dr. Jimmy Fletcher and Member of its Board Claudius Francis



Some of those who attended

legacy strategy insofar as they will connect Saint Lucian companies to contractual and partnership opportunities that will help the country achieve its trade and investment imperatives.

“Of particular interest is our capacity to provide support for the development of micro and small to medium enterprises that provide the backbone of our economy. We will also be working hard to ensure that we take advantage of the global focus on the creative industries to drive linkages and growth in our entertainment and cultural industries, in sports and special events,” Said the NDC Chairman, Wayne Vitalis, during his welcome to the roomful of entrepreneurs, sports officials, social partners and media.

Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Anthony described the legacy strategy as world class. He said Cricket World Cup, which is a mere 220 days away, presents St. Lucia with a unique opportunity to grow its tourism, investment and trade while focusing on “our fundamental values of hospitable, excellent service delivery in our “Simply Beautiful” environment. It is an opportunity that goes well beyond our hosting of the semi-final in April 2007 towards

our shared vision for the future – Saint-Lucia2015.”

In his remarks to the gathering, Chief Executive Officer of the Cricket World Cup Saint Lucia Inc, Ernest Hilaire gave the assurance that the local organising team will have all critical elements in place for the teams and official parties. He says these efforts and assurances notwithstanding, the real welcome exists in the community.

“The real welcome exists in the hearts and minds and actions of each individual within our service industries – from the immigration officers to the taxi drivers, from bar staff to medical practitioners.”

The launch of Saint Lucia 2015 was attended by Her Excellency Dame Pearlette Louisy, Governor General of Saint Lucia.

Over the coming weeks, the NDC will engage a major promotional blitz aimed at acquainting Saint Lucian companies with the several benefits of membership with CBOS and the Caribbean Business Club, and signing on as many as possible. As an incentive NDC has committed to underwriting the cost of membership for local businesses until April next year.

Saint Lucia Ready For CWC’s Mass Crowds

St. Lucia is on the right track in terms of its plans to handle the massive crowds that will be in the country when it will host matches in the 2007 ICC Cricket World Cup in March – April 2007. That is the view of Acting Deputy Chief Fire Officer Hilton Occulien who recently attended a workshop in Washington DC on mass event management. Key players from all the West Indian countries involved in preparations for Cricket World Cup 2007 attended the workshop and observation exercise which was designed to give them a vivid under-

standing of how to deal with mass crowd events. The workshop was organized by the US Southern Command, Caribbean Regional Subject Matter Exchange Visit

Mr. Occulien says the workshop was a strategic eye-opener particularly in regard to putting in place effective frameworks and standard operating procedures for the World Cup which is going to be the biggest ever staged in the region and St. Lucia.

“The focus of the workshop was on event management- mass crowd, mass event management where we shared ideas. We visited places where Washington has been

hosting events. One of the areas was the Emergency Management Agency in Washington that actually overseas and plans all major events in Washington.”

The Fire Service veteran says many aspects of the procedures for mass event management which were demonstrated in an observation exercise at a baseball game were already under implementation in St. Lucia, indicating that the country was on the right track in its preparations to manage massive crowds. According to Mr. Occulien, “Some of the protocols we have at Beausejour were actually active. They have a command centre they call VOC in

Beausejour -that’s the Venue Operating Centre; we had medical stations throughout the stadium and they had a police command vehicle situated outside of the stadium where police and traffic had major management systems in place, even for a small game.”

He added that what Saint Lucia needs to do now is to focus more on building inter-agency synergies via Standard Operating Procedures, open channels of communication through increased interaction between key players including emergency responders and the police and to strengthening communication.

DISCOVERY AT MARIGOT BAY'S SOFT OPENING



The latest addition to St. Lucia's tourism plant, the ultra-luxury hotel, Discovery at Marigot Bay, had its "soft opening", two weeks ago on September 15th, when it quietly opened for business. The grand formal opening of the hotel is scheduled for November but the

"soft opening" was still celebrated in style. Among the activities was a prayer session and singing of the national anthem by all the hotel's staff. This took place around the lagoon pool and the picture above shows the staff gathered by the pool. A champagne celebration

at the famous 50 year old Hurrigan Hotel bar followed the pool ceremony. 200 St. Lucians are employed at the hotel. Discovery at Marigot Bay is managed by GLA Hotels, a Paris based management company specialising in luxury and independent hotels world wide.



THIS WEEK ON NTN

Sat. September 30th to Fri. October 6th 2006
NTN – PROVIDING INFORMATION YOU NEED
Issues & Answers with Prime Minister Dr. Anthony on Cricket - Sat. September 30th, 11:30 a.m.
Danse Bele Martinique. - Sat. Sept 30th, 12 noon
Team Helen (Children & Drugs) - Sat. Sept. 30th 10:30 a.m.
Kiddiecrew - Sun. Oct 1st 10:30 a.m.
Issues & Answers CWC 2007 - Sun. Oct 1st, 11:00 a.m.
Highlights National Ozone Awards – Sun. Oct 1st 11:30 a.m.
Remember to tune in for:
GIS News Breaks and Kweyol News daily from 6:30 p.m.
Issues & Answers/Mondays at 8:00pm:
Interview/Tuesdays at 6:15pm : Konsit Kweyol/Tuesdays at 8:00pm (Kweyol Discussion): Your Right to Know/Thursdays at 6:15 p.m. (Min. of Ed. Prog).
Take 2/Fridays at 6:15pm (Week in Review)
Weflechi/Fridays at 6:40pm - (Week in Review—Kweyol)

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

www.stlucia.gov.lc

NDC Launches \$250,000 Micro-Business Fund

The National Development Corporation (NDC) on Tuesday, September 26th 2006 announced plans to make available EC\$250,000.00 to persons who wish to engage in micro business ventures, up to a maximum grant of \$10,000.00 per project. The funds are to be managed by the NDC in partnership with the James Belgrave Micro Enterprise Development Fund (BELFund) and the Small Enterprise Development Unit (SEDU) of the Ministry of Commerce.

Categories of business funded under the initiative includes; Service & Trade, Retail & Distribution, Manufacturing, Tourism and Agro-business. Successful proposals will have to meet select criteria which include being a commercially viable micro business proposal. The business must be a primary source of income and employment. The funds must be used to finance fixed assets for new and existing businesses. Priority will be given to business proposals designed to take advantage of Cricket World Cup. The NDC reserves the right to refuse the maximum grant to any client.

To benefit from this initiative a prospective applicant must make a tangible investment in the project either in cash or in kind. The applicant must provide NDC/BELfund/SEDU with performance information throughout the duration of the project. Demon-



Marcellus Joseph of BELFUND, Wayne Vitalis of NDC and Peter Lorde of SEDU

strate a willingness to undergo training in enterprise development. Utilize the technical assistance and business support facility of BELfund. Provide recent photo of applicant, not more than 3 months old.

Persons involved in food preparation etc. must acquire statutory requirements such as health certificates. Monies will be paid directly to suppliers therefore applicants must be willing to present bonafide open bills and invoices for purchases. Additionally, businesses with fixed locations must register through SEDU.

Application forms will be made available to the public on October 3rd, 2006 at SEDU office in Castries and Community

Development Offices island wide.

To be considered for financing an applicant must submit the prescribed application form to SEDU for consideration (only original application forms will be considered) by October 31st 2006. Submit all supporting information about the project including an estimate of the cost of implementing the project and the names and contact numbers of three (3) references.

An Evaluation Committee will review submissions by November 1st and successful applicants notified by December 4th 2006. Disbursements of funds begin January 3rd 2007.

Saint Lucia **NATIONWIDE** is published every week by the Department of Information Services.

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>