

SVG Foreign Minister Addresses Vincentian Diaspora in the UK

18 March 2011

London, UNITED KINGDOM: Minister of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Consumer Affairs, Dr. the Hon. Douglas Slater, addressed the Vincentian Diaspora at the High Commission for St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) in London.

In attendance were Mrs Lewis, members of staff from the High Commission, Hon. Consul for SVG to Northern Ireland Dr Christopher Stange, Chair of the SVG London Association Denzil “LAD” Winsborrow, nationals and friends of SVG.

The main speakers included: Foreign Minister Dr. Douglas Slater and High Commissioner for SVG, H.E. Cenio Lewis, whom welcomed all guests, providing the opening address, introduction and extensive biography of our newly appointed Foreign Minister.



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Dr Slater explained to the packed audience the government’s commitment in building a post-colonial, modern economy on a national, regional and international level. He thanked his predecessor, Hon. Sir Louis Straker, whom created a solid foundation from which he is honoured to take the helm.

The Foreign Minister detailed SVG’s foreign policy of a small island state, incorporating traditional and non-traditional partners, to strengthen relationships, opportunities and trade.

He explained the recent election and developments in the country noting significant advancements have been made in all sectors, including public health, agriculture, education, wellness revolution, public services, Argyle International Airport and Buccament Bay resort.

These latter projects are to enhance tourism, other sectors of the economy and provide employment for nationals.

Dr Slater highlighted the Vincentian Diaspora for the efforts that poured in after Hurricane Tomas and through remittances the positive effect made on the economy back at home. He asked everyone to maintain these strong links and the shared responsibility we all have in creating a better society for all Vincentians.

Scholarships are being offered by many SVG allies, which play a dramatic role for our youth today and the quest for global knowledge and skills. He commented that he received his medical education through the Republic of Cuba, which in addition granted him another language, which will be of great benefit in his diplomatic role for the country.

The evening's programme included the national anthem, opening prayer, videos (Invest SVG, Buccament Bay & Argyle International Airport), Question and Answer session with the Foreign Minister, vote of thanks from Counsellor Carolin de Freitas-Sawh and a banquet of food and beverages.

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