



ADDRESS DELIVERED ON ZIZ NATIONAL RADIO AND TELEVISION AND  
VON RADIO BY PRIME MINISTER THE RIGHT HONOURABLE  
DR. KENNEDY SIMMONDS ON RECOVERY EFFORTS IN THE AFTERMATH  
OF HURRICANE HUGO ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5TH, 1989 AT 7.30 P.M.

*"We must demonstrate that we have the strength to meet  
adversity and to move on into the future"*

FELLOW CITIZENS,

I THINK IT IS TIMELY FOR ME TO UPDATE YOU ON THE PROGRESS OF THE RECOVERY EFFORT IN THE AFTERMATH OF HURRICANE HUGO. IT IS CAUSE FOR REGRET THAT WE DO NOT HAVE AVAILABLE THE FULL FACILITIES OF RADIO STATION ZIZ, BUT AS YOU ARE AWARE, OUR ANTENNA WAS COMPLETELY DESTROYED DURING THE STORM. WE HAVE SUFFERED DAMAGE ALSO TO TELEVISION EQUIPMENT WHICH HELPED US TO CARRY THE SIGNAL INTO REMOTE AREAS OF THE COUNTRYSIDE, AND ALSO OVER TO NEVIS. WE ARE EXPECTING SOME TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE LATER IN THE COURSE OF THIS MONTH TO ASSIST US IN EFFORTS TO RESTORE FULL SERVICE, AND SKANTEL HAS INDICATED AN INTEREST IN ASSISTING IN THE PROCURING OF AN APPROPRIATE ANTENNA.

WE ARE INDEED FORTUNATE THAT VOICE OF NEVIS IS ABLE TO CONTINUE THEIR BROADCASTING, THAT THEIR ANTENNA IS FUNCTIONING, AND WE APPRECIATE THE CO-OPERATION WHICH ALLOWS US TO DISSEMINATE INFORMATION AS IS NECESSARY.

FIRST I'D LIKE TO EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION TO ALL OF THOSE PERSONS, MANY PERSONS, AND GROUPS, WHO HAVE COME OUT AND ASSISTED IN THE CLEAN-UP PROCESS. THIS HOWEVER IS NOT COMPLETE, AND I WISH TO ENCOURAGE YOU TO CONTINUED EFFORT IF WE ARE TO ENSURE THAT OUR COUNTRY RETURNS TO ITS PRISTINE CLEANLINESS. DURING THIS TIME, OUR EFFORTS AT DISPOSAL OF WASTE AND GARBAGE OF COURSE ARE MEETING WITH GREAT DIFFICULTY. THE COLLECTORS ARE HARD PRESSED AND I WOULD SINCERELY URGE ALL HOUSEHOLDERS TO BE VERY COOPERATIVE AND TO ASSIST IN THE CLEAN-UP PROCESS, TO MAKE SURE THAT THEIR GARBAGE IS PLACED IN A SECURE MANNER SO THAT IT DOES NOT CONTRIBUTE TO THE LITTERING OF OUR STREETS. I AM ENCOURAGING ALSO COMMUNITY GROUPS TO CONTINUE TO ASSIST IN THE CLEAN-UP PROCESS, TO ADVISE THE DISASTER RELIEF COORDINATORS EITHER IN YOUR AREA OR CENTRALLY, OF YOUR NEED FOR TRANSPORTATION, AND ALSO TO ENCOURAGE PERSONS WITH TRUCKS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT TO ASSIST IN THE CLEAN-UP PROCESS.

IN RELATION TO SPECIFIC AREAS OF DAMAGE, BEGINNING WITH SCHOOLS, YOU ARE AWARE THAT IN ST. KITTS, ALL CHILDREN HAVE RETURNED TO SCHOOL. IN NEVIS, PARTICULARLY IN THE LOWER AGE GROUPS, THERE ARE STILL SOME SCHOOLS THAT ARE NOT FULLY FUNCTIONAL, PARTICULARLY THE GINGERLAND AREA. HOWEVER BY NEXT WEEK IT IS EXPECTED THAT ALL SCHOOLS WILL BE FUNCTIONAL IN SOME WAY OR ANOTHER. YOU ARE AWARE OF COURSE THAT IN SOME CASES THE STUDENTS ARE SPLIT BETWEEN MORNING AND AFTERNOON SESSIONS, AND IN SOME CASES, THAT STUDENTS ARE BEING HOUSED IN TEMPORARY FACILITIES. IN RELATION TO THE DESTRUCTION OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE, AND ALSO THE HARDSHIPS SUFFERED BY FARMERS AND FISHERMEN, WE HAVE APPROACHED THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANISATION, AND THEY HAVE EXPRESSED SERIOUS WILLINGNESS TO ASSIST US WITH THE PROVISION OF SEEDS, WITH FINANCING FOR THE PROVISION OF WIRE AND OTHER INPUTS WHICH WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL IN HAVING OUR FARMERS AND FISHERMEN FULLY BACK IN BUSINESS.

ONE OF THE GREAT AREAS OF CONCERN OF COURSE IS THE RESTORATION OF ELECTRICITY, AND I AM HAPPY TO REPORT THAT AT THIS TIME THE RESTORATION PROCESS IS MOVING AHEAD AT FULL STEAM, BOTH ON ST. KITTS AND ON NEVIS. IN ADDITION TO THE WORK OF OUR OWN CREWS, THE UNITED STATES HAS SENT IN ADDITIONAL CREWS TO ASSIST US. MOST OF CHARLESTOWN HAS ELECTRICITY, AND THEY ARE MOVING NOW OUT INTO THE OUTLYING AREAS. HERE ON ST. KITTS ELECTRICITY ALONG THE HIGH-TENSION WIRES HAS BEEN RESTORED AS FAR AS MOUNT IDLE ON THE WEST AND MANSION ON THE NORTH-EAST, AND OUR CREWS ARE MOVING IN BETWEEN TO RESTORE ELECTRICITY TO THE VARIOUS VILLAGES ALONG THE WAY. THE AMERICAN TEAMS WILL SOON BE MOVING INTO THE AREA FROM CRAB HILL TO DIEPPE BAY SO THAT THERE IS HOPE THAT VERY SHORTLY MANY PERSONS OUTSIDE OF BASSETERRE WILL HAVE THEIR ELECTRICITY RESTORED.

WATER SUPPLIES HAVE BEEN QUITE ADEQUATE RECENTLY; HERE IN ST. KITTS WATER IS AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE COUNTRY, AND THE CHLORINATING PLANT IS OPERATING - THERE HAS BEEN SOME DAMAGE THERE THAT IS BEING REPAIRED - BUT EVERYBODY HAS ACCESS AT THIS POINT TO WATER HERE ON ST. KITTS. IN NEVIS MOST OF THE ISLAND HAS ACCESS TO WATER EXCEPT THE CHARLESTOWN AREA, AND THERE IN CHARLESTOWN WE EXPECT THAT THAT WILL BE ADDRESSED EITHER THIS EVENING, OR PERHAPS EVEN AS I SPEAK, OR CERTAINLY BY TOMORROW.

TEMPORARY REPAIRS HAVE BEEN DONE TO OUR ROADS, AND WE HAVE HAD A VISIT FROM THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT BANK WHICH HAS EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN ASSISTING US WITH THE RESTORATION OF OUR INFRASTRUCTURE.

I WANT TO SAY A WORD ABOUT RESTORATION OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES THROUGHOUT OUR ISLANDS. I BELIEVE THIS IS THE TIME FOR THOSE PERSONS WHO USE THESE FACILITIES TO MOBILISE THEMSELVES TOGETHER AND TO ASSIST IN THE CLEANING UP OF THOSE FACILITIES. I TAKE FOR EXAMPLE WARNER PARK, AND I KNOW THAT THE WARNER PARK COMMITTEE HAS STARTED TO MOVE IN THAT DIRECTION, AND I WANT TO URGE ALL OF THE USERS OF WARNER PARK AND OTHER SIMILAR FACILITIES TO UNDERTAKE FULLY THE CLEAN-UP EFFORT. AFTER THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO SEE MORE CLEARLY THE NEEDS FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND, GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY WORKING TOGETHER, WE CAN ADDRESS THOSE NEEDS MORE FULLY.

I WANT TO EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY FOR THE LEVEL OF ASSISTANCE THAT WE HAVE BEEN RECEIVING. OUR O.E.C.S. AND C.A.R.I.C.O.M. BROTHERS HAVE RALLIED AROUND US AND HAVE RESPONDED WELL TO OUR CALLS FOR ASSISTANCE. WE HAVE HAD ASSISTANCE FROM THE UNITED STATES, FROM THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT, FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM, CANADA, THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA, AND TODAY I RECEIVED A CHEQUE FOR FIFTY THOUSAND U.S. DOLLARS FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN. DURING THE COURSE OF THE WEEK I RECEIVED A VISIT FROM THE AMBASSADOR OF NIGERIA, WHO HAS INDICATED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WILL BE MAKING A CONTRIBUTION AFTER HIS REPORT ON HIS FINDINGS HERE. THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH HAS MADE A CONTRIBUTION SPECIFICALLY TO ASSIST IN THE REHABILITATION OF THE NEWTOWN SCHOOL. OUR EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON AND OUR MISSION IN NEW YORK HAVE BEEN WORKING AROUND THE CLOCK IN ORDER TO ATTRACT CONTRIBUTIONS AND ALSO TO COORDINATE THE SENDING OF THOSE CONTRIBUTIONS HERE. WE ARE ALSO BEING ASSISTED THROUGH THE CARIBBEAN DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND PREVENTION PROJECT, WHICH HAS SET UP AN OFFICE IN ANTIGUA IN ORDER TO COORDINATE THE EFFORT THROUGHOUT THE LEEWARD ISLANDS.

I THINK ALL OF US WERE PARTICULARLY PLEASED AT THE VISIT OF THE

REVEREND JESSE JACKSON AND CICELY TYSON, WHO IS HERSELF A NATIONAL OF THIS FEDERATION. THEY CAME IN ON SATURDAY TO SHOW THEIR SOLIDARITY, TO EXPRESS THEIR CONCERN, AND TO INDICATE THEIR WILLINGNESS TO GO OUT AND SEEK TO RAISE FUNDS AND TO ATTRACT FUNDS FROM VARIOUS SOURCES IN ORDER TO ASSIST.

I THINK THAT WE ARE GETTING OVER THE INITIAL PROBLEMS. INITIALLY THERE WAS GREAT CONCENTRATION ON FOOD DISTRIBUTION, ON MAKING SURE THAT CLOTHING WAS AVAILABLE WHERE IT WAS NEEDED, ON PROVIDING SHELTERS, BUT GRADUALLY WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GET PEOPLE MOVING AWAY FROM MOST OF THE SHELTERS. THE DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD HAS PROCEEDED TO AREAS OF NEED WITHOUT PARTISANSHIP, AND I WISH TO COMPLIMENT THE HIGH INTEGRITY OF THOSE PERSONS WHO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD. I THINK THEY HAVE DONE AN EXCELLENT JOB, AND HAVE MADE SURE THAT THE SUPPLIES HAVE REACHED TO THOSE PERSONS WHO HAVE NEEDED IT MOST.

I HAVE LEFT THE AREA OF HOUSING UNTIL NOW BECAUSE I BELIEVE THAT THAT REQUIRES SPECIAL TREATMENT. I THINK THAT WAS ONE OF THE MOST DRAMATIC RESULTS OF THE HURRICANE. WE SAW SO MANY PERSONS WHO HAD ROOFS BLOWN AWAY, PARTIALLY REMOVED OR DAMAGED IN SOME WAY OR THE OTHER. OUR APPROACH NOW IS TO SEEK TO GET ROOFS OVER THE HEADS OF OUR PEOPLE. OF COURSE THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE INSURED ARE IN A POSITION TO MAKE THEIR OWN ARRANGEMENTS. THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALREADY INSTITUTED A PROGRAMME TO ASSIST UNINSURED PERSONS WITH THE PROVISION OF DUTY-FREE MATERIALS. WE HAVE ALSO UNDERTAKEN THE REHABILITATION OF THE GOVERNMENT LOW-INCOME HOUSES AT AN APPROXIMATE COST OF THREE QUARTERS OF A MILLION DOLLARS (SEVEN HUNDRED AND FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS). BUT WE RECOGNISE THAT THERE ARE STILL PERSONS OF LESSER MEANS WHO NEED ASSISTANCE, AND WE HAVE SOUGHT TO DEVELOP A STRATEGY - A STRATEGY THAT IS FAIR, A STRATEGY THAT REACHES THOSE IN GREATEST NEED, AND A STRATEGY THAT CAN BE MET FROM OUR RESOURCES IN THE FIRST INSTANCE. WE CANNOT WAIT FOR ALL THE HELP THAT WE EXPECT TO FLOW IN, BUT WE MUST START TO ADDRESS THOSE NEEDS IN HOUSING NOW. AT THIS TIME IT IS IMPORTANT FOR US TO COMPILE ALL THE INFORMATION THAT MAY BE RELEVANT TO ENABLE US TO PERFORM ADEQUATELY. I HAVE CONSULTED WITH PREMIER DANIEL ON THIS ISSUE, AND OVER IN NEVIS THEY HAVE BEEN SENDING AROUND PERSONS TO COMPILE INFORMATION. WE INTEND HERE ON ST. KITTS TO SET UP A PROGRAMME TO BEGIN ON MONDAY NEXT WEEK. THE THRUST OF THAT PROGRAMME IS TO PROVIDE CENTERS IN EACH VILLAGE TO WHICH PERSONS WOULD COME AND INDICATE THEIR LOSS AND THEIR PARTICULAR NEEDS. WE WILL HAVE THOSE CENTERS MANNED FROM FOUR O'CLOCK TO SIX O'CLOCK EVERY EVENING FROM MONDAY TO FRIDAY NEXT WEEK, AND FROM 1:00 P.M. TO 5:00 P.M. ON SATURDAY NEXT WEEK. WE WILL PROVIDE THERE FORMS DETAILING CERTAIN INFORMATION. NOW WE RECOGNISE THAT SOME PERSONS WILL BE ABLE TO FILL OUT THESE FORMS OUT VERY PROMPTLY, OTHERS WOULD HAVE SOME DIFFICULTY. IT IS EXPECTED THEREFORE THAT THE PERSONS MANNING THE STATIONS WOULD BE ABLE TO SOLICIT THAT INFORMATION, TO ASK PERSONS FOR THAT INFORMATION AND TO PLACE THAT INFORMATION ON THE FORMS. THAT WAY WE WILL BE ABLE TO RECEIVE DIRECTLY FROM THOSE WHO ARE AFFECTED THE SPECIFIC INFORMATION THAT WE NEED. I AM GOING TO ASK THAT WHEN PERSONS ARE GOING TO THESE CENTERS, THAT THEY SHOULD ENDEAVOUR TO BE IN A POSITION TO GIVE TO THE PERSON THERE A SPECIFIC LIST OF NEEDS OR REQUIREMENTS IN RELATION TO THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF ROOFING, OR THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SECURITY OF THE BUILDING. I WANT IT TO BE CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD THAT THE THRUST OF THIS PROGRAMME IS TO GET ROOFS BACK OVER THE HEADS OF OUR PEOPLE. IN ADDITION WE EXPECT THE DEVELOPMENT BANK AND THE COMMERCIAL BANKS TO RESPOND TO THE CRISIS AND TO BE ABLE TO DEAL WITH THOSE PERSONS WHO CAN BE ELIGIBLE UNDER PERHAPS SLIGHTLY RELAXED CRITERIA FOR LOANS DURING THIS PARTICULAR TIME OF DIFFICULTY.

IT MUST BE APPRECIATED THAT THE PROCESS OF REHABILITATION AND RECONSTRUCTION MUST BE A LONG-TERM PROCESS, AND IT WILL REQUIRE US TO MAKE CHANGES IN THE PRIORITIES OF OUR DEVELOPMENT PLAN. IT IS IMPORTANT FOR US TO DO AS MUCH AS WE CAN WHILE WE CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS TO ATTRACT INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE OVER THE LONG TERM. THE INITIAL RESPONSES THAT WE HAVE GOT INDICATE THAT OUR PROSPECTS FOR ENCOURAGING THIS ASSISTANCE ARE INDEED ENCOURAGING. IT IS IMPORTANT HOWEVER FOR US TO KEEP OUR ECONOMY MOVING, TO KEEP PEOPLE AT WORK, TO MAKE SURE THAT OUR TOURISM PLANT IS FUNCTIONING. WE CANNOT GIVE IN TO DESPAIR, BUT WE MUST BE MOVING FORWARD TO ENSURE THAT THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPMENT CONTINUES IN SPITE OF THE RAVAGES OF HURRICANE HUGO.

I AM SERIOUSLY CONCERNED AND HAVE EXPRESSED MY CONDOLENCE TO OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN MONTserrat, ANTIGUA, PUERTO RICO AND THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS IN PARTICULAR, AND TO ANY OTHER OF OUR COLLEAGUES IN THE REGION - ST. MAARTEN, DOMINICA AND GUADELOUPE, AND OTHERS WHO HAVE SUFFERED FROM THE RAVAGES OF THIS HURRICANE. I EXTEND PARTICULAR CONDOLENCES TO OUR OWN PEOPLE WHO ARE LIVING IN THOSE PLACES, AND I ASSURE THEM THAT IN SPITE OF OUR OWN DIFFICULTIES, IF WE FIND OURSELVES ABLE TO ASSIST IN SOME WAY WE WILL BE WILLING TO DO SO.

THERE IS ONE IMPORTANT MATTER ABOUT WHICH IT IS TIMELY FOR ME TO ADDRESS YOU AT THIS TIME, AND THAT IS ON THE ISSUE OF CARNIVAL. MANY QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN ASKED, AND ARE BEING ASKED, ABOUT THE FATE OF CARNIVAL, AS WE STAND NOW APPROXIMATELY TWO MONTHS AWAY FROM THE USUAL FESTIVE SEASON. THE END OF THE YEAR, AND THE BEGINNING OF THE NEW YEAR HAS TRADITIONALLY BEEN A TIME OF GREAT FESTIVITY. IT HAS BEEN A TIME OF CULTURAL RE-AWAKENING IN OUR SOCIETY, EVEN BEFORE THE ADVENT OF CARNIVAL, AND I BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE A SHAME IF WE ALLOWED EVEN A NATURAL DISASTER OF THE MAGNITUDE OF HURRICANE HUGO TO STRIKE SO DEEPLY AT OUR CULTURAL ROOTS THAT WE WOULD FIND OURSELVES UNABLE TO PRESS ON WITH THE ISSUE OF CARNIVAL.

IT IS THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO MOVE QUICKLY FROM THIS POINT IN ORDER TO SEEK TO RESTORE THE FACILITIES AT CARNIVAL VILLAGE. THE CARNIVAL COMMITTEE HAS MET, AND HAVE INDICATED THEIR WILLINGNESS TO MOBILISE AND MOVE FORWARD TO ENSURE THAT OUR CULTURAL FESTIVAL WILL TAKE PLACE. I WANT TO ENCOURAGE THEREFORE THOSE WHO HAVE A GREAT INTEREST IN CARNIVAL TO CONTINUE THE WORK THEY HAVE STARTED TO ENSURE THAT OUR CARNIVAL WILL INDEED TAKE PLACE. THERE MAY HAVE TO BE MODIFICATIONS, FOR WHICH YOU WILL UNDERSTAND, BUT WE MUST DEMONSTRATE, AND MAKE IT KNOWN THAT WE MAY BE DOWN, BUT WE ARE NOT OUT, AND THAT OUR SPIRITS ARE NOT BROKEN, AND THAT WE HAVE THE STRENGTH TO MEET ADVERSITY AND TO MOVE ON INTO THE FUTURE.

SO LET US CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER IN ORDER TO REBUILD OUR RAVAGED COUNTRY. AND LOOK FORWARD WITH HOPE, USING THIS AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR GREATER ONENESS IN OUR TWIN-ISLAND FEDERATION. GOD BLESS YOU ALL.