

Labour Spokesman

SOUND SPEECH THAT CANNOT BE CONDEMNED..., TITUS 2:8

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BASSETERRE . ST. KITTS . W.I.

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GEORGES STRIKES:

3 Dead, 2 Missing, Thousands Left Homeless and Without A Job

RECOVERY PROCESS TAKES BRISK PACE

St. Kitts is quickly returning to normal, following the extensive and disastrous damage inflicted upon the country by ruthless Hurricane Georges - late Sunday night and early Monday morning = leaving three persons confirmed dead, two others missing and presumed dead and close to 3,000 inhabitants homeless. Some 300 persons are still in shelters.

The Prime Minister of the Federation, Dr the Hon Denzil Douglas, expressed much optimism here on Thursday afternoon, during a Press Conference at his office at Government Headquarters, adding that his Government has been working assiduously and doing all that is humanly possible to ensure that the country is returned to normalcy in the most expeditious manner.

To this end, said Prime Minister Douglas, a Task Force, under the

Chairmanship of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Trade, Industry and CARICOM Affairs, Hon Sam Condor, has been set up.

The Task Force comprises Government and Private Sector officials as well as representatives from the Christian Council and the Evangelical Association and is mandated to meet frequently to implement the necessary measures to recover St. Kitts and return it to the state it was prior to the onslaught and devastation of Hurricane Georges.

Prime Minister Douglas also informed the Press of the tangible support being received from CARICOM Heads of Government, including the Chairman and Prime Minister of St. Lucia, the Hon Dr Kenny Anthony, who he said will be visiting the Federation early next week to get a first hand look of the level of the



devastation.

He said the Prime Minister of Antigua, Hon Lester Bird, in his capacity as Chairman of the OECS sub-grouping, will also be visiting the Federation early next week to make his own assessment of the situation.

Dr Douglas said his Government was also in touch with the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and that the Bank has already mobilised the initial emergency monies which are available to St. Kitts and Nevis on long-term and concessionary rates.

The Prime Minister continued by stating that the CDB is sending a team on Monday, September 28, to look at the financing of projects which can bring relief to the people and assist in expediting the recovery process.

He said his Government was grateful for the assistance received so far from regional governments. These included Barbados which had sent a consignment of flour on board the local Coast Guard vessel, the *Stalwart*.

The Prime Minister also made mention of meetings he had with

representatives of a number of international organisations including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); the PAN American Health Organisation (PAHO); the Canadian International Agency (CIDA); the Organisation of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA); the Commonwealth and the Caribbean Disaster Response Agency (CEDERA).

He said these agencies, based on their own assessments have concluded that there has been extreme damage. They have mobilised the necessary support from the international community from the donors so that St. Kitts and Nevis can benefit from the response.

He said the immediate concerns of PAHO and the international agencies is the

Port Zante attacked by the sea

state of the Joseph N. France General Hospital which was severely damaged by Hurricane Georges - rendering it some 90 percent non-functional.

The assessment and findings by PAHO strengthens the case for a new hospital, pointed out Prime Minister Douglas, adding that when officials from the European Union visit St. Kitts and Nevis next week, he will press upon them, the urgency and the need to start construction on the new premiere health institution, so that the Federation can have an improved medical service for the people and ensure that medical and health care presently available does not deteriorate.

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Prime Minister Douglas having a close look at a "blown apart" house in his constituency.

Our Condolences to all our who suffer loss of loved ones during the period of the passage of Hurricane Georges.

To all our valued Advertisers, Subscribers and Readers, we sympathize with your loss and sufferings and pray that the Lord's Blessing be on you as you strive to recover this terrible ordeal,

Management

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GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON TAIWAN DONATES ONE MILLION US DOLLARS TO ST. KITTS HURRICANE GEORGES FUND

St. Kitts and Nevis' Prime Minister the Hon. Dr. Denzil Douglas yesterday accepted a one million United States Dollars (2.7 million East Caribbean .. Dollars) cheque from the Basseterre-based Ambassador of the Republic of China on Taiwan, Her Excellency Mrs. Katherine Chang.

Ambassador Chang said she was deeply saddened by the damage to homes, schools, business places, the airport and Port Zante and had contacted her Government in Taipei requesting help.

She expressed sympathy to the Government and people of St. Kitts and Nevis and condolences to the families who lost their loved ones in the storm.

Ambassador Chang thanked Prime Minister Douglas, Government officials and other persons who called after the passage of the hurricane to enquire of her safety.

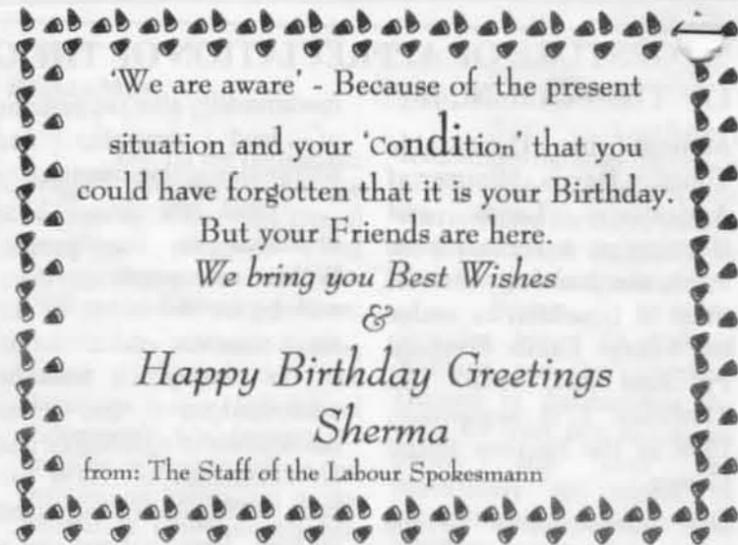
In accepting the one million United States Dollar cheque, Prime Minister Douglas said it demonstrated the deep feelings of Gratitude and friendship of the Governments of the Republic of China on Taiwan and St. Kitts and Nevis over the years.

He gave the assurance that the money will go along way in bringing relief to the suffering of the many grieving families, those without a home, the children and babies without homes.

After accepting the one

million dollars cheque Prime Minister Douglas handed it over to financial Secretary, Mr. Wendell Lawrence.

The Government of Prime Minister Douglas opened the St. Kitts Hurricane Georges Fund with an initial account of EC\$500,000.00. The fund was opened at the St. Kitts-Nevis Anguilla National Bank and all donations can be made to the said Bank.



TWO ATTEND TELEVISION NEWS SEMINAR IN TAIWAN

Ms Maria James, Information Officer at the Government's Information Service and Theo Clarke, Broadcaster at ZIZ Broadcasting Corporation are presently in Taiwan taking part in a television news seminar.

The seminar runs from September 21 - October 10, 1998 with several objectives which include carrying out cooperative relations between

the Republic of China on Taiwan and the nine English-speaking countries with which it shares diplomatic relations.

An additional objective is the training of news personnel from the mentioned geographic area.

Ms James and Mr Clarke will therefore join persons from other English-speaking countries including Grenada, Belize, Liberia and Swaziland.

The course was made possible by the ROC Broadcasting Development Fund which was commissioned by the ROC Government Information Service.



L-R: President Lee of the Allied Investment Corporation of Canada; Vice President Chris Astaphan; (Our own) Health Minister E. A. Martin and Tourism Minister G.A.D. Astaphan



P.M. Douglas interacting with kids during his visit to the devastated area

GEORGES STRIKES

(cont'd fro page 1)

The Prime Minister went on to thank the Allied Investment Corporation of Toronto, Canada which brought two aircrafts of medical supplies to St. Kitts costing over \$1/2 million. This company includes one Kittitian, Dr Chris Astaphan, who is the brother of the Minister of Tourism, Culture and the Environment, Hon Dwyer Astaphan. They were met at the airport by the Minister of Health and Women's Affairs, Dr the Hon Earl Asim Martin, who received the supplies on behalf of the Government and people of the Federation.

The Prime Minister also thanked the staff at Water Department, the Electricity Department and the SSMC for their hard work and generous support, and all those involved in the clean-up campaign and getting the country back to normalcy, adding that he was pleased with the pace of the clean-up work.

Schools he said will

be re-open next week and the State of Emergency and Curfew will be called off as soon as the Security Forces advise that everything is in order.

At the request of the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly, Hon Hugh Heyliger held discussions with him on Thursday last and pledged to work together to build St. Kitts and Nevis.

The Prime Minister also met with representatives of the Christian Council and the Evangelical Association; and tomorrow, Sunday, September 27 has been declared a Day of Prayer and Thanksgiving for sparing our lives.

The three confirmed dead as a result of the hurricane are a 73-old-woman of Challengers Village, Henrietta Garvey; a 76-year old man of Cayon, Joseph Liburd and an 81-year-old man (also of Cayon), Joshua Walters.

The two missing and

presumed dead, are a young couple from Sandy Point, Roger and Sandra Heyliger, who were washed away in their car P1290, while trying to pass through the Bloody Point River in Palmetto Point on Monday, after the passage of Hurricane Georges.

Meanwhile, Police reported the discovery of the body of a young woman in the Conaree Beach area, yesterday - believed to have been washed ashore by the nearby sea. Because of the state of decomposition, the Police have ruled out that Hurricane Georges had anything to do with the death.

Hurricane Georges, now showing its fury to South Florida, early yesterday, lashed the southern tip after ripping through the Caribbean on a 5-day rampage that killed more than 250 people and left tens of thousands homeless.

Hurricane warnings and watches also remained in effect for much of Cuba, as the back of Georges, a hurricane measuring more than 300 metres across, spun over that island.

Georges was a stronger storm when it cut across the Caribbean from Antigua, St. Kitts, and the U.S. Virgin Islands through Puerto Rico and across Hispaniola, home of the Dominican Republic's 8 million people and Haiti's 7 million.

The Dominican Republic was especially devastated with up to 70 deaths reported on Thursday and at least 100,000 Dominicans left homeless.

Haiti registered some 27 deaths, while in Puerto Rico there were 11 reported deaths and 2 in Antigua.

Described by the local

Co-ordinator of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Mr Errol Maynard, as the worst hurricane to hit St. Kitts and Nevis in this century, Georges struck its most telling blow on the northern section of St. Kitts - which includes villages like Conaree, Monkey Hill, Cayon, Ottleys, Lodge, Molineux, Tabernacle, Saddlers, Dieppe Bay and St. Pauls.

The Basseterre area was also hard-hit as it received the brunt of the violent attack from the back-lash of the hurricane, changing its direction from the North to the South East.

Thousands of persons on St. Kitts are left without a job for the coming weeks because of the severe attack on the Industrial and Commercial Sites.