

BASSETERRE FLOOD

To a staccato cracking of electric brightness, fierce light flashed over Basseterre, St. Kitts from around 1.30 o'clock Friday morning, November 17. It lit up the skies and the land and heralded a terrific downpour which in a little over two hours after 3 a.m. flooded lower Basseterre with water, buried portions of it under sand and debris.

The flood waters inundated the business premises of Coury and Sahely on College Street, causing terrific damage to the bonded Warehouses and Wholesale premises of Sahely's.

The waters also flooded the business premises of Abourisk, Charles, Sahely's, Kassab and others on Liverpool Row, and washed motor car CN 757 into the sea.

In addition the wall fencing and home of Miss May Warner on the corner of College Street and Central Street were washed away, flooded and damaged. And the home of Mr. Thompson, the waterman on the south-western corner of Cayon and College Street was inundated with about four inches of water.

The sea was pushed back 14 yards and the mouth of College Street and that stretch of the Bay Road running from Delisle Street to the western end of the market was covered with sand and debris. The damage should run into tens of thousands of dollars.

DR. SEBASTIAN - INJURED

Flood waters in the country areas caused considerable damage. It swept Dr. C.M. Sebastian's car off the road at West Farm, injuring him on an arm and leg. He was travelling from Basseterre to his hospital at Sandy Point.

Considerable damage was done to the bridge at Cayon and Comrade Kelly, the newly returned representative for the area was early on the job urging that a bulldozer be sent to clear debris from the bridge.

The Supt. of Works, Mr. Stanley Sebastian, very quickly organised men and machines to clear up the debris. And the Hon. Minister of Works, Comrade Williams, the Administrator, Chief Minister, and Comrade Bradshaw toured the affected areas in turn.

(The Labour Spokesman)

COMMEMORATION ADDRESS BY DR. M. J. BOEKHOUDT ADMINISTRATOR OF ST. EUSTATIUS
NOVEMBER 16, 1961.

Your Excellency, Minister Debrot representing the Central Government of the Netherlands Antilles - Your Honour, Con-

sul General of the U.S.A. of America - Honorable representative of the President of the Staten of the Netherlands Antilles - Honorable Representative of the Windward Islands in the Staten - Honorable members of the Staten, visiting us - Honorable Deputy representing the Island territory of Curacao - Honorable Deputy representing the Island territory of Aruba - Honorable Lt. Governor of the Windward Islands - Honorable Deputy representing our sister island St. Maarten - Honorable Deputy representing our sister island Saba - Honorable members of the island Council of the Windward Islands, Island territory - Honorable Deputies of St. Eustatius - Distinguished Commanding Officer the U.S.S. "Richard Kraus" - Distinguished Commanding Officer of the H.M.S. "van Amstel" - Highly appreciated Guests, who with your presence are honouring our Island commemorating today the first salute to the flag of the United States - Ladies and gentlemen, with great pleasure in my heart, I greet you all and extend to you a cordial welcome, assuring you, that I consider it a high privilege to be standing before you here in this historical fort and addressing you on this illustrious day for St. Eustatius.

The gun salute fired some instants ago by the U.S.S. "Richard Kraus" as reenactment of the national gunsalute by the United States Brig of War "Andrew Doria" on November 16th, 1776 and its reply by this historical fort by eleven gun shots, leads us back into history of this event; Let us reflect now a moment upon the significance of this salute.

By the "Declaration of Independence" adopted by the representatives of the 13 colonies on 4th. July 1776, the young Republic of the Continental States was born and started to fight for Independence against England.

The necessary supplies ~~for~~ for this warfare were hard to get, as England was powerful at sea and controlled the navigation and ships carrying supplies for the American rebels.

What was St. Eustatius, like that time?

Because of its splendid location a key to the Spanish main, it developed into an important centre of trade and commerce and free port since it was taken by the Dutch from the Spaniard in 1626.

Ships from all over the world frequented the harbour, bringing their merchandise to trade for other products from foreign countries.

The protection of the harbour was taken care of by the powerful batteries of Fort Orange, Fort Royal, Fort Amsterdam and Fort Rotterdam.

The West Indian Company had the Island properly reinforced.

(To be continued in next issue)