



# NEWSLETTER

The Antigua and Barbuda High Commission

ISSUE No.102 August 2005



**The proposed Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Stadium to be built at North Sound**

*An official ground breaking ceremony on Thursday 8th September signalled the start of construction of the Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Stadium.*

*The ceremony organized by the government in conjunction with World Cup Antigua Inc., also featured the signing of the Stadium Construction Agreement by Acting*

*Director of Public Works Mr. Charlesworth Davis and Deputy Chief Economist of the Construction Firm, China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation, Mr. Zhao Zhanging.*

*Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer and Her Excellency Madame Ren Xiaoping, China's Ambassador to Antigua and Barbuda also signed the continued Aid Gratis Agreement under the Economic and Trade Cooperation for a further 40 million Yuan towards the cost of the construction of the stadium.*

*The Ground Breaking Ceremony included addresses by Minister of Sports and Chairman of World Cup Antigua Inc. John Maginley, President of the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association, Mr. Enoch Lewis, CEO and Managing Director of World Cup Antigua Inc., Mr. George Goodwin Jr. and President of the Hunan Architectural and Design Institute, Mr. Chen Xin. Ambassadors Ren Xiaoping and David Shoul also delivered addresses while Prime Minister Spencer delivered the feature address.*

*The turning of the sod to officially start construction was carried out by Prime Minister Spencer, Sir Vivian Richards, Ambassador Ren Xiaoping and Mr. Zhao Zhanging.*

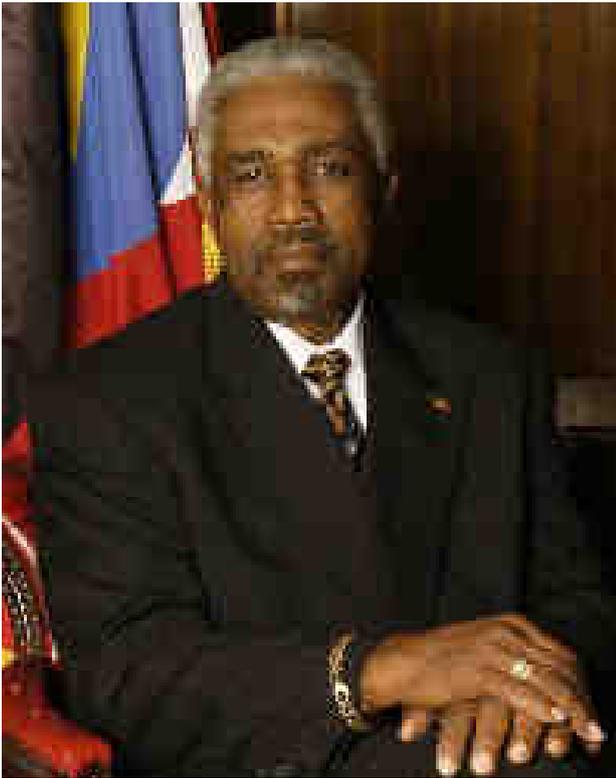
*The Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Stadium will have a permanent capacity of 11, 000 fixed seats with a further 8,000 temporary seats added for ICC Cricket World Cup 2007. There will be a total of seven playing pitches, 4 utilized for the CWC 2007 games. The Playing field size will meet both standards for one day internationals and test matches with the playing area being 146.3m or 160 yards from boundary to boundary square.*

## Inside

- **Antigua and Barbuda and other OECS countries express concern over CSME (page 3)**
- **Government moves Airport re-Development Project to a new Level (page 7)**
- **Delta airline's inaugural flight scheduled for December 2005 (page 8)**
- **Antigua-Barbuda and Australia discuss common interests (page 10)**

# HIGH COMMISSIONER'S MESSAGE

---



*Dear Readers,*

*Antigua and Barbuda is moving full steam ahead with the construction of the Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Stadium at North Sound.*

*Four officials from the China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC) which comprised Deputy Chief Economist Zhao Zhangning, Project Manager Huang Haichen and Vice Manager/Senior Engineer – Projects Management Section Liu Xianlong visited Antigua and Barbuda and discussed the various requirements of the government for the construction of the multi-million dollar cricket stadium with non-resident Ambassador to China, HE David Shoul and members of World Cup Antigua Incorporated .*

## **INDEPENDENCE HOMECOMING**

*This is a gentle reminder about the Independence Homecoming 2005, which takes*

*place in Antigua from October 21st to November 1st.*

*This year's theme is ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA: ONE FAMILY "Working Together to Achieve Excellence".*

*The Committee is working ceaselessly to make this year's celebrations truly unforgettable.*

*The activities will commence on Friday 21st October with a Pre-Independence Theatrical Performance and concludes on 1st November with the Ceremonial Parade at 8:00 am; Food Fair/Panache at 12:00 noon and the Independence Homecoming Banquet at 7:30 pm.*

*This is the second year that the Independence Homecoming is being held. Last year's was a resounding success and we envision this year's festivities will be even more spectacular.*

*Apart from reconnecting nationals and providing new opportunities for investment, the festival should also benefit our economy.*

*In reality, the Independence Homecoming is an economic enterprise, as it will inject huge foreign exchange into our country's economy. It has been estimated that if 5,000 nationals and friends arrive in Antigua and Barbuda between October 21 and November 1, 2005, it should generate millions in revenue.*

*I therefore urge everyone to do their part to support this critical project in our economy. Independence Homecoming is good for our economy, our culture and engenders pride in our community.*

**Dr Carl Roberts**  
**High Commissioner**



**Ambassador Lebedev with Prime Minister Spencer**

**Antigua and Barbuda and the Russian Federation strengthens relations**

On the 22nd August, Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer met the new Russian Ambassador to the Eastern Caribbean, His Excellency Mr. Igor Lebedev and held discussions on a wide range of matters of cooperation.

Ambassador Lebedev pledged to work diligently to develop relations between Antigua and Barbuda and the Russian Federation. He mentioned that Russian President Vladimir Putin instructed all Russian Ambassadors to concentrate on developing economic relations with foreign countries. He outlined that there was a mechanism for political dialogue both at bilateral and CARICOM level.

Prime Minister Spencer and the Russian Diplomat also discussed the early conclusion of a maritime agreement between both countries.

This agreement should enhance the capacity of the Antigua and Barbuda Shipping Register to attract vessels from the Russian Federation, or major maritime nations. Prime Minister Spencer emphasized that Antigua and

Barbuda was looking to expand its shipping register and that formalizing the arrangement with the Russian Federation was a step in that direction.

Prime Minister Spencer also spoke of the possibilities for the country to take up Russian scholarships for tertiary training in various fields. He also mentioned the possibilities for

developing tourism out of Russia. Ambassador Lebedev agreed that there were good possibilities, as over one thousand Russian tourists per annum currently visit Jamaica.

United Nations reform was also on the agenda during the meeting and Ambassador Lebedev outlined his government's approach to the UN Reform process and highlighted Russia's emphasis on multilateralism.

Prime Minister Spencer pointed out that the UN needs reform, not only at the level of the Security Council but many of its other organs and agencies. He pointed out that the Millennium Development Goals should be brought to the forefront of world affairs and should be aligned to the question of UN reform.

Ambassador Lebedev spoke of the relative prospects of the so called G-4 countries who are lobbying to become permanent members of the UNSC. He was of the view that new members would have to take on additional responsibilities as permanent members.

Ambassador Lebedev's visit with Prime Minister Spencer was preceded by his presentation of Credentials to Governor General Sir James Carlisle.

**WTO Arbitrator rules in favour of Antigua and Barbuda in its Internet Gaming case against the United States**

Claus-Dieter Ehlermann, the Arbitrator appointed by the World Trade Organization, to determine a "reasonable time period for implementation" of recommendations and rulings of the WTO's Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) in Antigua and Barbuda's Internet gaming case against the United States (*United States-Measures Affecting the Cross-Border Supply of Gambling and Betting Services*) issued an award on the 19th August that was in favour with Antigua and Barbuda's request for the shortest possible time period.

"I am pleased to see that the Arbitrator has decided in favour of our cogent arguments that the shortest possible time period be given to the US to implement the recommendations," said Dr. Errol Cort, Minister of Finance and the Economy, who has overall responsibility for this issue.

"We believe that in his decision to grant the US a time period of eleven months and two weeks (11 months and 2 weeks) from the date of the adoption of the WTO's Appellate Body Report, or approximately eight months (8 months), from the stated date the Arbitrator has sent a clear message to the US that it is expected to comply fully with the recommendations and rulings of the DSB, and to do so within a clearly defined timeframe" he added.

The Minister added that he now hoped that those who had

previously sought to either dismiss or minimize Antigua and Barbuda's decisive victory in this case, would now understand fully the import of the DSB's recommendations and rulings. "We have prevailed at every stage in this endeavour, and given the importance of Internet gaming to our economy, we will, as Prime Minister has repeatedly emphasized, "stay the course,"" he said.

"I would like to thank our team of Dr. John W. Ashe, our Ambassador to the WTO, and Mr. Mark Mendel, our Legal Adviser, for the yeoman job they did in persuasively presenting our arguments to the Arbitrator at the hearing last month," said the Minister.

"I am pleased that the Arbitrator was not persuaded by the US' request that it will need a minimum of fifteen (15) months to implement the recommendations and rulings of the DSB in this dispute," said Ambassador Ashe. "Had this request been granted, the US would have had until the end of July 2006, instead of 3 April 2006, to implement the recommendations," he added.

"Ideally, we would have preferred even a shorter time frame," said Mark Mendel, Antigua and Barbuda's Legal Adviser. "For us, even a period of one month is too long. Under the circumstances, however, we are very pleased with the outcome," he added.

"At the end of day, in this case, April 3, 2006, we hope that the US will present to the Appellate Body, a comprehensive plan on how it intends to grant full market access to our gaming operators," said Ms. Kaye MacDonald, Director of Gaming of the Directorate of Offshore Gaming. "Before anyone forgets, this after all, is the primary reason we brought the case to the WTO in the first place," she added.

Antigua and Barbuda's delegation to the WTO will now have to ensure that the US regularly informs the meetings of the DSB on steps it is taking, to implement the recommendations and rulings of the Appellate Body.

## PM Spencer makes trip to the Republic of Cuba

Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer accompanied by Junior Minister of Health Winston Williams, Ambassador Designate to Cuba HE Bruce Goodwin and Cuban Medical Team Coordinator Dr. Geovando Martinez, recently paid a visit to the Republic of Cuba where they participated in the graduation of medical students from the Escuela Latinoamericana de Medicina.

The medical school currently has over 12,000 students studying from across the Caribbean, Latin America and the USA.

Prime Minister Spencer, who was specially invited to attend the graduation ceremony of the 1841 doctors (6 Antiguan and Barbudans) by President Fidel Castro, also visited the Antiguan and Barbudan patients who are in Cuba undergoing eye treatment under a special programme established by Cuba and Venezuela. The over 121 patients were elated to see Prime Minister Spencer and his team and expressed profound gratitude to his government and the Cubans for the initiative. The Prime Minister's team also received a medial update on the status of the patients from the doctors in Cuba.

The country's leader also participated in a specially convened meeting with Heads of State of Latin America and the Caribbean chaired by



*Prime Minister Spencer making an intervention at the special meeting - left is President Castro and President Hugo Chavez*

President Fidel Castro and President Hugo Chavez of Venezuela.

The discussions centered on closer relations between the Caribbean and Latin America, the PETROCARIBE initiative of Venezuela and the Cuban Eye-care Programme.

During an intervention, Prime Minister Spencer called for an urgent summit of the Caribbean and Latin America to chart out an integration framework for the region.

"There is an urgent need for us to meet and concretize the movement towards closer cooperation. The functional cooperation espoused by Prime Minister Gonsalves and Skerrit needs to be advanced in light of the effects of globalization on the Caribbean," he said.

It was widely agreed that Cuba and Venezuela should be the axis towards the development to advance cooperation into integration between the Caribbean and Latin America.

The meeting which was also attended by the Prime Ministers

of St. Kitts and Nevis, Dominica, Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines along with the leaders of Panama, Ecuador and Venezuela, also highlighted the need for Latin America namely Cuba and Venezuela to assist countries whose sugar and banana industries are affected by new trade regulations.

It was agreed that a special commission will be appointed to chart the future of an integration movement between the Caribbean and Latin America. In addition, the PETROCARIBE initiative mounted by Venezuela to provide fuel to the region will be officially instituted with the signing of agreements to commence shipments at a meeting in Jamaica on September 8.

### Antigua and Barbuda and other OECS countries express concern over CSME

Ahead of the High Level Retreat which was scheduled for OECS officials in St. Lucia, the smaller countries of the Caribbean expressed their feelings on the heels of the CSME due to be in effect as of January 1, 2006.

This meeting with CARICOM officials sought to address matters of the Development Fund, regional markets on specific agriculture products, OECS proposals of special and differential treatment and the difficulties meeting the deadline of December 2005.

Trade Affairs Officer, Michael Freeland, spoke briefly on the matters, stating that although the OECS countries have signed on to the Treaty which will govern a single market, these countries still had to remain committed to their people so that their economies will benefit from the arrangement.

The development fund which is now being a highly debated agenda item is fundamental in the formation of the CSME. Questions of its construction and accessibility are still being contested ensuring somewhat of an equitable outcome for all CARICOM Member States.

According to Freeland, the least-developed countries of CARICOM should have a special arrangement in accessing this fund. Therefore, the small businesses within the economies will be able to utilise such mechanism, offsetting disadvantaged positions, retooling its strategic objectives and being able to survive in a competitive single market.

The Trade Affairs Officer also suggested that the fund can contribute to addressing issues of the agriculture sector. "There is a need for infrastructural support and services for agricultural development. Already, Antigua and Barbuda is forging ahead realising the potential linkages between agriculture and tourism taking into account the decision made on pineapples for World Cup 2007. If funds can be allocated via investment capital for both the development of technology and the diversification of the agricultural economic base, then the resultant effects of the policy directives are likely to impact positively towards the overall growth and development within the economy of Antigua and Barbuda." Freeland said.

Mr. Freeland also noted that the December deadline should not hinder efficient discussion or decision making that would lead to greater benefits for the Eastern Caribbean states. One troubling factor for this twin island state is the removal of work permits by December 2005 as Antigua and Barbuda already has some 46% non-nationals employed.

Freeland expressed to the meeting that the country simply needs an extension on the derogation granted some four years ago, so that the necessary infrastructure can be implemented. "Antigua and Barbuda is not saying that we

will not remove this restriction to allow our CARICOM brothers and sisters to move and work freely in our state. What we are saying is that time is needed to computerise and amalgamate the necessary Ministries to ensure that the CSME works effectively."

This also follows a similar request made by the Prime Minister, Baldwin Spencer, Minister of International Trade, at the Heads of Government Meeting in St. Lucia in July.

The High Level Retreat was held in St. Lucia from August 25-26, 2005.

Sean Cenac, Sector Planner in the Ministry of Planning also attended the Retreat.

### UPP Administration keeps promise to Barbudans

The sixteen month old United Progressive Party Administration of Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer early August fulfilled another of its election promises to the people of the sister island of Barbuda, giving them the rights to lands in common, ending a twenty-five year old battle between the two islands.

During a special meeting at the Office of the Prime Minister between members of the Barbuda Council and their attorney John MacDonald QC, Prime Minister Spencer and Attorney General Justin Simon QC; it was agreed in principle that the government will enact a new Barbuda Land Act which will be introduced in Parliament to confirm that lands in Barbuda belong to Barbudans in common.



**Members of the Barbuda Council meeting with the Prime Minister and Attorney General**

This decision by the government, legitimized a promise made by Prime Minister Spencer while in opposition, that his government will not interfere with the lands of Barbuda. The promise was also spelt out in detail in the party's election manifesto of last year.

Attorney General Justin Simon QC and John MacDonald QC met to agree on a brief to be submitted to the Cabinet and the Parliamentary Counsel for their consideration. When the proposed Barbuda Land Law is enacted, the pending case before the Privy Council (initiated during the ALP administration) on the ownership of lands in Barbuda will be withdrawn.

Parliamentary representative for Barbuda, Trevor Walker, who led the Barbuda Council delegation to the meeting, said that it was an historic day and it marks the continued improvement on the new and better relationship forged by the UPP Government between the two islands that make up the State of Antigua and Barbuda. He said that the Government is committed to ensuring that the rights of Barbudans are upheld and he is proud to be a Barbudan and a member of the UPP Administration.

Under the new arrangement, issues of land development on Barbuda will be decided by both the Barbuda Council and the Central Government with both sides holding veto powers on any development on the sister island.

The previous Antigua Labour Party Administration following Independence in 1981 was of the view that the lands in Barbuda should be treated as crown lands and that it had authority to decide how the lands should be distributed or developed without the input of the Barbuda Council. The Council fought the then government in the courts, with the matter ending up in the Privy Council in the United Kingdom and is due to come up for hearing later this year.

The Attorney General outlined that the lands in Barbuda have been held for centuries by Barbudans in common and outlined that his government recognizes that the Council is an integral part of the development of Barbuda.

He said that the lands will not be sold, but both the Cabinet and the Barbuda Council will have the authority to lease the land for development.

The new agreement paves the way for the Barbuda Council and the

Central Government to put together a major five year development plan for Barbuda.

## Holberton receives donation from Virginia-based Group

An international organization out of Virginia has come forward and donated over one hundred thousand dollars worth of medical supplies and equipment to the Holberton Hospital.

The supplies, which include beds, wheel chairs, an x-ray processor, IV poles, and other medical supplies and equipment were donated by Crosslink - a Virginia-based group. Holberton Hospital's Administrator, Gary Thomas, accepted the donation from Antigua and Barbuda's Honorary Consul-General in New York, MacChesney Emmanuel.

Mr. Thomas was delighted that Crosslink made such a timely donation towards Holberton Hospital and he urged other organizations to join in and assist with uplifting the institution.

Chairman of the Holberton Restoration Committee, Nicholas Hadeed, said that the health institution has limited medical supplies and he is delighted that Crosslink has come forward with such a goodwill gesture.

Crosslink is a Virginia-based group aimed at helping third world nations meet their medical needs.



*Minister of Health, John Maginley making his presentation to PAHO*

## Minister of Health makes presentation to Pan American Health Organization

On the 7th August, Minister of Health, Sports and Youth Affairs, John Maginley, made a presentation to officials of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) on national health developments in Antigua and Barbuda.

The Minister, who was accompanied by Dr. Rhonda Sealey-Thomas, Acting Chief Medical Officer, is in Washington D.C., on a three-day orientation to PAHO for the Ministers of Health from Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada and St. Kitts and Nevis. The orientation provided Ministers with an overview of PAHO/WHO and its regional technical units. Ministers discussed strategies aimed at improving technical cooperation between PAHO and the countries of the Eastern Caribbean.

In his 45-minute presentation, Minister Maginley provided a synopsis of the health situation in Antigua and Barbuda. Minister Maginley noted that risk factors such as obesity, reduced physical activity, and high fat diets have

resulted in chronic non-communicable diseases such as heart disease, cancer, diabetes, hypertension and cerebrovascular diseases being the top five causes of death in the country. The Minister had discussions with consultants in PAHO to formulate strategies to combat these diseases.

The Minister also highlighted that the high rate of infection of HIV/AIDS remains a serious concern. Minister Maginley pointed out that efforts are underway to ensure that all persons infected with HIV/AIDS receive anti-retroviral drugs. He also indicated that one of the goals of the Health Ministry was to reduce the incidence of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections among persons in the 15-44 age group by 10% over the period 2004-2014.

Minister Maginley discussed with PAHO officials, ways of improving and promoting technical cooperation between PAHO and Antigua and Barbuda.

According to Minister Maginley, a closer collaboration with PAHO and other regional and international organizations is necessary if Antigua and Barbuda is to adequately address its priority health issues and meets its health goals.

## Antigua and Barbuda soon to have a National Drug Policy

Director of Pharmaceutical Services Casford King said Antigua and Barbuda is in the process of creating a National Drug Policy.

Mr. King who recently returned from a one week intensive training course in the Dominican Republic on Medicines

Policy said that the policy will ensure that emphasis is placed on the coherent use of medicines ensuring quality, safety and efficacy of all Pharmaceutical products.

The Director of Pharmaceutical Services said that the policy will also ensure Governments' commitment to a Pharmaceutical service that is effectively led and efficiently managed.

He outlined that the National Drug Policy is expected to come on stream by December 2005. Mr. King further stated that the one week training course provided Antigua and Barbuda with the necessary tools and guidelines for the further development of the National Drug Policy and Essential Medicines List.

It was also stated that the National Drug Policy will give credence to Evidence Based Medicine (EBM) and rational prescribing of pharmaceuticals.

"This will create the need for conducting Drug Utilization Studies aimed at identifying Prescribing patterns of practicing Physicians in Hospitals and community clinics," he said.

The course which was sponsored by the Pan American Health Organization also addressed Regional legislation for pharmaceuticals, registration of products and (IPR) International Property Rights issues for the procurement and manufacture of Pharmaceuticals.





In his address the Prime Minister said "It is with honour and great pleasure that I welcome the Queen's Baton Relay to our nation's shores.

This year, the Queen's Baton Relay unites the 18th Commonwealth Games in Melbourne with a record-breaking international feat.

For the first time in its history of close to half a century, the Queen's Baton Relay will include a leg

On the 12th August, Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer, government officials and local celebrities welcomed the Queen's Baton as it made its way across the Commonwealth in preparation for the Commonwealth Games in Australia in 2006.

Members of the National Olympic Committee, cricketing legend Sir Vivian Richards and Junior Sports Minister Winston Williams also welcomed the Baton, which is a symbol of peace and unity, when it arrived at the V.C. Bird International Airport before crisscrossing its way around Antigua and Barbuda.

Prime Minister Spencer was an active participant in the relay across the island and he welcomed the keepers of the Baton to Antigua and Barbuda.



in the 71 nations of the Commonwealth. This will make this year's Queen's Baton Relay, historic.

The scale of this relay allows communities that have never before experienced such a spectacle, participate in a festival of unprecedented international proportions.

Of the 71 countries the relay will visit, this year, the majority will be hosting the relay for the very first time.



This global celebration spanning a year and a day, crossing five continents and seven oceans, gives Antigua and Barbuda the opportunity to be involved in and to contribute to the spirit of friendship which the Commonwealth Games foster.

Please join me in giving the Queen's Baton Relay and all those who will be participating in this evening's celebrations, a warm and friendly welcome as we look ahead to Melbourne 2006."

**The Queen's Baton Relay.**  
**Pictured top left - Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer, Tourism Minister Harold Lovell and Sports Minister Winston Williams hold aloft the Baton.**  
**(top right) High Commissioner SE Dr Carl Roberts and Mrs Roberts.**  
**(centre) Prime Minister Spencer and Sir Viv Richards with Baton.**  
**(bottom left) High Commissioner SE Dr Roberts socialising with SE Madam Ren Xiaoping, China's Ambassador to Antigua and Barbuda and the Resident British Commissioner**



*V.C. Bird International Airport*

**Cabinet Statement**

**Government moves Airport Re-development Project to a new level**

The Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda has confirmed a number of decisions intended to ensure the smooth and accelerated progress of the redevelopment of the V.C. Bird International Airport.

Cabinet charged the Board of Directors of the Antigua and Barbuda Millennium Airport Corporation (ABMAC) with the overall management, direction, oversight, coordination and momentum of all phases of all activities related to the project; with the Chief Executive Officer responsible for execution of the Board's policies, decisions and directions.

Cabinet also pointed out the need for the project to be driven by a high degree of public information at every stage of redevelopment.

In order to optimize available resources and stakeholder input, the

Board of Directors of ABMAC will be assisted by a cross-functional Millennium Project Team comprising senior technical representatives of a number of Ministries, agencies and organizations.

The Cabinet agreed that the Cross-Functional Millennium Project Team to be chaired by Minister of State with responsibility for Barbuda Affairs, Trevor Walker MP, will comprise of representatives from:

- The Ministry of Finance and the Economy
- The Ministry of Works, Transport and Environment
- Mr Brian Challenger of the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation and a Director of AMBAC
- The Ministry of Labour, Public Administration and Empowerment
- The Royal Antigua and Barbuda Police Force

- The Fire Department
- The Immigration Department
- The Customs Department
- The National Economic and Social Council
- The Aerodrome Superintendent
- Mrs Valerie Skepple of National Enterprises Investment, Inc.

The Cabinet recognizes that the upgrade of the V.C. Bird International Airport is a critical national imperative representing the biggest single public sector investment project the UPP Administration has initiated; thereby extending beyond the scope and character of any single Ministry.

This, it believes, highlights the need for the establishment of the Cross Functional Millennium Project Team which will be a consultative and facilitative mechanism working in close collaboration with ABMAC Executive personnel.

Cabinet also agreed that in the full discharge of the responsibilities assigned, the Board of ABMAC will report to the Cabinet through Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer, who has direct oversight for the airport redevelopment project.





*Delta Airlines compliments Airlines.net*

## Delta Airline's inaugural flight scheduled for December 2005

Delta Airlines will make its inaugural flight to Antigua later this year.

The December 18<sup>th</sup> inaugural event will solidify a six-month negotiating process with the team headed by Tourism Minister Harold Lovell.

Delta is the second largest operating carrier within the United States, and the airline will be making 2 scheduled flights per week on Wednesdays and Saturdays non-stop to Antigua from Atlanta, with its 737 aircraft which has a seating capacity of 148 passengers. Currently the airline operates into the Eastern Caribbean islands of Barbados and St. Lucia.

The Minister said that this new airlift opportunity will offer connection to Antigua out of approximately 20 significant US gate-ways with major ones being Miami, Orlando, New York and New Jersey. Marketing and Promotions Manager, Joyce Henry said, "already our official US Public Relations firm Yesawich, Pepperdine, Brown and Russell and Tour Operators are excited about the prospects of additional airlift into Antigua.

A team of Delta Airlines representatives headed by Senior Vice President of Operations in the Caribbean, Mr. Terry Strand, which also included Sales and Marketing, Finance, Ground Handling Services and IT personnel recently visited Antigua. They held numerous consultations with several ground handling agents, Special Security Services and the management team of the V.C. Bird International Airport.

Minister Lovell remarked that, "The advent of Delta scheduled service of two weekly non-stop flights into Antigua from Atlanta, will indeed strengthen and support our efforts to increase visitor arrivals from within the US market, and already we are looking forward to following up with negotiations to have Delta increase this schedule to a daily service."

Delta's arrival will usher the start of the 2006 Winter Tourist Season.

## Government begins phase one of Secondary School of Excellence

The first phase in the construction of a Senior Secondary School of Excellence is continuing smoothly with the clearing of lands at

Tomlinson. The clearing, which is expected to be completed shortly is being undertaken by ACE Heavy Equipment and Trucking.

The construction of the new educational facility is part of Government's national plan for the development of the education sector, by eliminating overcrowding in the Secondary Schools and provides the best educational environment and facilities in the study of the normal subject areas such as Arts and Cultural Studies, Foreign Languages, Physical Education and Aquatic Sports.

The school will also cater for comprehensive Agricultural Science and skills based programmes in preparing the citizens for the competitive global environment.

Minister of Education, Bertrand Joseph expressed on behalf of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, their appreciation of the genuine financial support of R. Allen Stanford for the educational advancement of the nation.

He reminded the nation that his government believes that "a mind is too precious to waste" and that an educated population is an empowered population.

Government donated the lands and other technical and administrative resources to this project while Mr. R. Allen Stanford allocated the sum of EC \$25M to the Project, which is being managed by Dr. Lucine Hanley as Project Manager on behalf of the Government and Dr. Austin Josiah as Project Director on behalf of R. Allen Stanford.





*Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer addressing the United Nations*

## Prime Minister Spencer to play a major role at the United Nations' World Summit 2005 in September

The Prime Minister W. Baldwin Spencer was unanimously endorsed by the thirty-four member States of the Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC), which are members of the United Nations, to serve as the Chairman of the interactive round table of heads of State and Government at the World Summit 2005, to be held at UN Headquarters during the High-level Plenary of the UN General Assembly in September 2005.

The endorsement of the Prime Minister came with the withdrawal of the candidatures of the Heads of State of El Salvador, Mexico, Venezuela, respectively, in a rare display of regional consensus and solidarity. "I am very grateful to my fellow heads of government from Mexico, Venezuela and El Salvador for their support, and for the overall support of fellow heads throughout the region," said the Prime Minister. "I will also like to

thank our UN Ambassador, Dr. John W. Ashe, for his considerable efforts in facilitating this endorsement" he added

As Chairman of the round table, the Prime Minister is expected to lead, moderate, and ultimately summarize the discussions of his fellow heads on themes of Summit, which include: taking decisive action to halve global poverty by 2015; reducing the threat of war, terrorism, and proliferation, and promoting human dignity in every corner of the world; and advancing development, security, and human rights.

"I do recognize that the task is not an easy one, as I am expected to focus the world's leaders on ways by which the international community can collectively achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, including scaling up official development assistance (ODA) to reach the 0.7 per cent of the gross national income target of the developed countries; canceling debt; improving trade access for developing countries; take action against terrorism and nuclear proliferation; set new norms for a Government's responsibility to protect

its citizens; and reform the Security Council and other United Nations machinery, including the setting up a Human Rights Council to replace the existing Commission on Human Rights," he said.

The Prime Minister will address the General Assembly as head of the Antigua and Barbuda delegation on September 14, before assuming his Chairmanship on September 15.

While in New York he will also conduct a "town hall" meeting with Antigua and Barbuda nationals living in the tri-State area of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.



## Minister Adams attends meetings of the Organization of American states

Minister of State in the Ministry of Housing Social Development and Culture, Eleston Adams, led an Antigua and Barbuda delegation to the recently concluded Ministerial Dialogue regarding the Social Charter of the Americas, in Caracas, Venezuela.

The meeting held 28-29 August 2005 at the Headquarters of the Organization of American States (OAS) in Washington D.C., was a precursor to the negotiations of this Social Charter. Her Excellency Deborah-Mae Lovell, Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda to the OAS accompanied the Minister to Venezuela.

During his presentation to the hemispheric body, Minister Adams underscored that "democracy would only have meaning to the citizens of the

The Minister also used the opportunity to highlight the positive steps taken by the Government. Particular mention was made of the trilogy of legislation, namely the Anti-corruption Act; the Integrity in Public Life Act and the Freedom of Information Act, which were implemented a mere eighteen months after the United Progressive Party (UPP) took office.

The Minister also enumerated the many policies pursued by this Government to enhance the social development of Antigua and Barbuda. Among the policies mentioned were the recently implemented programmes to offer free school uniforms and free school meals to primary and secondary school children of our nation.

In addition to the meeting in Venezuela, Minister Adams also attended the Second Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Culture (CIC), which was held in Washington, D.C. 25-26 August 2005.

Minister Adams noted that he found the meeting immensely useful as he gained a greater understanding of the work pursued by the varying departments of culture of the countries of the hemisphere and indicated that the information gathered, would help shape the proposed draft policy on culture for Antigua and Barbuda.

The Minister further indicated that he was impressed by the information provided by other countries on the significance of culture to development and how culture could be used to boost the economies of countries.

Minister Adams also participated in discussions on the diversity of culture as a tool for unity in society.



*Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer and Australian High Commissioner John Stewart Mitchell*

## Antigua and Barbuda and Australia discuss common interests

On 25th August, Australian High Commissioner John Stewart Mitchell paid an official visit on Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer where he outlined his government's initiatives in Antigua and Barbuda.

High Commissioner Mitchell told Prime Minister Spencer that he was pleased to be in Antigua and Barbuda, particularly to support an Australian Project by the Historical Society at the Museum of Antigua and Barbuda.

He explained that the project taught art and handicraft skills using waste materials.

Prime Minister Spencer spoke of Cricket World Cup 2007 and the prospects for Antigua and Barbuda in taking advantage of the economic and other opportunities associated with the event.

Both men also spoke of the impact of Sir Vivian Richards on Antigua and Barbuda and Australia, and Prime Minister mentioned the imminent construction of the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium for the 2007 World Cup.

High Commissioner Mitchell mentioned that his country had observed that in the Caribbean, there is an economic transition taking place from agriculture to tourism and technology based industries.

Prime Minister Spencer also raised the issue of the dynamic small business sector of Australia and hoped that Antigua and Barbuda business interests could develop links.

