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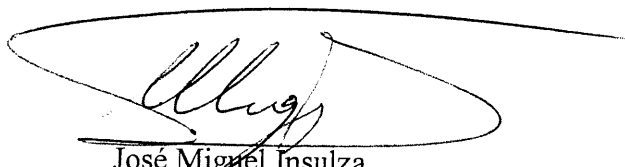
GS/SPA-719/06

October 3, 2006

Excellency:

I have the honor to address Your Excellency to request your kind assistance in having distributed to the members of the Permanent Council the attached report of the OAS Electoral Observation Mission in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. The report reflects the activities undertaken by the Mission during the observation of the general elections in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, held on December 7, 2005.

Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.



Handwritten signature of José Miguel Insulza, Secretary General, enclosed in an oval.

José Miguel Insulza
Secretary General

Her Excellency
Marina Valere
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Trinidad and Tobago
Chair of the Permanent Council
of the Organization of American States
Washington, D.C.

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

**REPORT OF THE
ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSION IN ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES
GENERAL ELECTIONS 2005**

Secretariat for Political Affairs

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Electoral Observation Mission of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS) takes this opportunity to thank the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, the Supervisor of Elections and staff of the Electoral Office; the Permanent Mission of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to the OAS and the Permanent Representative Ambassador Ellsworth John, the political parties, civil society organizations and the people of St. Vincent and the Grenadines for their cooperation and assistance in the operation of the Mission.

Appreciation is expressed to the staff of the Office of the General Secretariat in St Vincent and the Grenadines, headed by Director Ms. Melene Glynn, which provided administrative and logistical support to the Electoral Observation Mission.

Thanks also are extended to the governments of Brazil and of the United States of America for providing the necessary external funding for the Mission. Appreciation is expressed to the two officers from the Embassy of the United States of America who supplemented the Electoral Observation Mission.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On October 3, 2005 the Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Dr. the Hon. Ralph E. Gonsalves transmitted a request to the Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS) Dr. Jose Miguel Insulza, inviting the Organization to send an Electoral Observation Mission to St. Vincent and the Grenadines to observe the general elections to be held in that country prior to March 31, 2006. In his October 19 reply, the Secretary General indicated willingness to deploy an Electoral Observation Mission, subject to the timely receipt of sufficient external funds and following the signing of the customary legal agreements between the General Secretariat and the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. On November 6, 2005 Prime Minister Gonsalves announced that general elections would be held on December 7, 2005.

Following the announcement of the date for the elections, the OAS Secretary General designated the Assistant Secretary General, Ambassador Albert R. Ramdin, as Chief of the OAS Electoral Observation Mission. The requisite legal agreements were signed at the Headquarters of the General Secretariat on November 10. In compliance with the provisions of Article 24 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, an agreement was concluded on the privileges and immunities of the observers, while a second agreement related to the conditions of security, free access to information and full cooperation with the Electoral Observation Mission. Financial contributions to support the Mission were received from the governments of Brazil and the United States.

The Department of Democratic and Political Affairs (now the Secretariat for Political Affairs following the December 15, 2005 re-organization of the General Secretariat) provided technical support to the OAS Electoral Observation Mission. Given the short lead-time available to plan, seek funding, organize, and deploy the mission, the methodology of the electoral observation in St. Vincent and the Grenadines had to be adjusted accordingly. The Mission comprised five observers from four OAS Member States (Barbados, Colombia, Suriname and USA). This number included two members of the United States Embassy in Bridgetown, Barbados. The Mission was present in St. Vincent and the Grenadines from December 4 to 9, 2005.

Following its arrival in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, the Mission undertook a full program of courtesy calls, meetings and briefings with government officials and electoral authorities, representatives of the political parties, civil society and the diplomatic corps, aimed at familiarizing itself with the major issues relating to the elections and the general pre-electoral climate. The Mission met with and maintained informal contact with the five-member Electoral Observation Mission of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) led by H.E. Philip Smith, High Commissioner of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas to Canada, which had also been invited by the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to observe the elections. There was also exchange of information and informal contact with the National Monitoring and Consultative Mechanism (NMCM), a local electoral observation group established by the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Christian Council.

On Election Day, the Mission observed the voting procedures in 95 of the 225 polling stations, covering thirteen of fifteen constituencies. All aspects of the voting process were observed, including the opening of selected polling stations, voting throughout the day, the closing procedures at selected polling stations, the preliminary count of the votes at those polling stations, the transport of the ballot boxes and tallied results to Returning Officers of selected constituencies.

The Chief of Mission attended the swearing in of the Prime Minister and key cabinet members following announcement of the preliminary results of the count on December 8, 2005.

As indicated in the preliminary assessment of the electoral process issued on December following announcement of the preliminary results of the poll, the OAS Electoral Observation Mission concluded from its observations that the elections of December 7 proceeded without major incidents or systemic irregularities, confirming the commitment of the people of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to the democratic process. Notwithstanding poor weather conditions, voters lined up at polling stations from early morning. This report details the findings of the Mission: It begins with a brief description of the historical and political context in which the elections took place and reviews the legal and organizational framework of the electoral system. The report identifies the actors in this electoral process, including political parties and civil society organizations. It concludes with the findings of the Electoral Observation Mission and makes some recommendations for the consideration of the electoral or other authorities.

In conclusion, the electoral process conducted in St. Vincent and the Grenadines contributed to the strengthening of democracy in the CARICOM region and across the Hemisphere. The presence of the OAS Electoral Observation Mission reinforced the commitment of the Organization to contributing to strengthening democracy through the electoral process. Likewise this exercise will enable the OAS to make recommendations aimed at boosting democratic institutions, thus enhancing their credibility among the citizens.

CHAPTER I: BACKGROUND

St. Vincent and the Grenadines, comprises 32 islands and cays in the Eastern Caribbean, of which about half a dozen are inhabited. The largest, St. Vincent, is 18 miles long and 11 miles wide and is the home of approximately 90 percent of the total population of some 110,000. The larger Grenadine islands include Bequia, Mustique, Canouan, Mayreau and Union Island. Before colonization, St. Vincent was densely populated by Caribs. With the signing of the Treaty of Paris in 1763, St. Vincent came under British rule. The Caribs fiercely resisted colonization and their final rebellion was not put down until 1797. Today, the Caribs represent only 3 percent of the total population of the country. Some 77 percent of the country's inhabitants are of African descent, 16 percent are of mixed race, and 4 percent of East Indian and Portuguese ancestry.¹

St. Vincent and the Grenadines gained independence from Great Britain on October 27, 1979. The following December, the St. Vincent Labour Party won 11 of 13 seats in parliament and its leader, Robert Milton Cato, became the country's first Prime Minister. In 1984, the New Democratic Party (NDP) captured nine seats, and Sir James Mitchell replaced Dr. Cato as the head of Government. Mitchell remained in power until his resignation in October 2000. Hon. Arnhim Eustace, former Minister of Finance, took over from Prime Minister Mitchell at that time.

The Organization of American States (OAS) observed elections in St. Vincent and the Grenadines in 2001, noting in its report that they "were perhaps the most extraordinary in the history of the country and resolved a political crisis [that was] two-and-a-half years in the making." Elections were held following a series of events that included political disquiet, the emergence of a genuine grassroots organization to promote negotiation, and the declaration of elections earlier than was constitutionally required. After the ballots were tallied, the ruling New Democratic Party (NDP), which had governed the country for 17 years, was replaced by the Unity Labour Party (ULP), with a margin of 12 of the 15 seats in parliament. In the 2005 elections, the ULP sought re-election with the NDP in vigorous opposition.

CHAPTER II: ELECTORAL STRUCTURE

A. ELECTORAL OFFICIALS

The Constitution of St. Vincent and the Grenadines is modeled on the Westminster system of government. Fifteen members of the House of Assembly, one from each constituency, are elected by direct and secret ballot by a simple majority ("first past the post system") and serve a maximum of five years. Six senators, four appointed by the ruling party and two by the opposition, also serve a maximum of five years in the House of Assembly.

The Representation of the People Act of 1982 is the major electoral law of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The country is divided into 15 constituencies with polling divisions within each constituency. Each polling division consists of one or two voting centers based on the number of registered voters in the area.

The electoral process is administered by a supervisor of elections appointed by the Governor General as head of State. The supervisor of elections also certifies the results of elections. On the

¹ Statistical Unit, Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

supervisor's advice, the Governor General appoints a returning officer for each constituency, responsible for organizing and administering the elections, receiving registration requests and modifying the electoral registry during the claims and objections period. In each constituency, the supervisor of elections appoints one or two election clerks to assist with their administrative duties. For each polling station, the supervisor of elections appoints a presiding officer and one or more poll clerks. The presiding officer is in charge of the overall conduct of the voting process in the polling station. The poll clerk assists the presiding officer on Election Day and may assume the role of presiding officer in case of illness or death of the latter.

B. CANDIDATE REGISTRATION

Under the provisions of the Constitution, the electoral process commences when the Governor General issues a writ under the public seal addressed to the returning offices for the constituencies where the election will be held. This writ is transmitted to the returning officers through the supervisor of elections.

After the Governor General has issued the writ, the supervisor of elections notifies the general public of the day and place fixed for the nomination of candidates. This notice is published in the *Gazette* and aired on radio and television. On nomination day, the returning officer of each constituency awaits the candidates at the appointed place between 9 AM and 12 PM. Elections must be held not less than 15 and not more than 21 business days after nomination day.

A prospective candidate must be nominated in writing by at least six registered voters from the constituency for which he or she seeks election. The voter identification number of each of the six persons must be written on the nomination paper. Prospective candidates must also make a deposit of EC\$500.00. Any candidate who fails to obtain 15 percent of the votes cast on polling day loses his or her deposit.

In the December 7 elections nomination day was November 21. The Mission could not be present in the country for the nomination process and announcement of the final slate of candidates.

C. THE VOTING PROCESS

On Election Day voting begins at 7:00 am and ends at 5:00 pm. Present in each polling stations are:

- The presiding officer
- One, possibly two, poll clerks
- Party agent representing each of the political candidates may also be present
- A police officer

1. Opening of the polls

- a) Voting begins at 7:00 a.m.
- b) The Electoral Law makes provision for the presiding officer to make a declaration of secrecy prior to opening of the polls. The Mission was informed by the supervisor of elections that this oath would be taken prior to polling day, except in cases where the presiding officer is a

justice of the peace. The poll clerk(s) and the party agents also make a declaration of secrecy. International observers may be present as per the legal agreements concluded with the electoral authorities.

c) At the opening of the polls:

- Officer presiding opens ballot box in the presence of party agents and others present.
- Presiding officer then locks and seals the ballot box and keeps the key.
- The ballot box is placed in full view of those present in the polling station.
- Voters are then invited to vote.

2. Voting Procedures

a) Voter identification process:

- Voter presents ID card or states name if not in possession of a card
- Poll clerk checks voter registry to ensure that the voter's name, number and description correspond to the information on the card.
- If voter has no ID but is registered at that polling station, the presiding officer pulls the voter's registration file kept at the polling station.
- Poll clerk then places mark on the voters ID number on the registry. On a separate ticket, the clerk copies the registration and indicates gender. If voter's name does not appear on registry he/she will not be allowed to vote at that polling station.

b) Voting procedure:

- Presiding officer examines voter's finger to determine if he/she has already voted or whether voter's figure has been greased to prevent application of indelible ink.
- Presiding officer places official mark and his/her initials on the ballot paper, marking the voter's number on the counterfoil of the ballot.
- Presiding officer then provides impartial instructions on the voting procedures, detaches the ballot from a bound book and hands to voter.
- Voter enters booth. Uses black lead pencil only to mark an X in the space on the ballot containing the name and symbol of his/her choice of candidate.
- Voter folds ballot so that the initials of the presiding officer and the official mark are visible. He/she hands the ballot to the presiding officer who confirms that the ballot has his/her initials and the official seals.
- Voter dips right index finger in the indelible ink.
- Presiding officer places ballot in the ballot box.

3. Closing of the poll: Counting of ballots and transmission of results

- a) Polling stations close at 5:00 p.m. Voters in line at this time are allowed to vote. Control is exercised by the police on duty at the polling station.
- b) When the last voter in line has voted, the presiding officer closes the door of the polling station to begin the count.

- c) Party agents must be present during the count. If no agent is present, the presiding officer requests the attendance of at least two voters. According to the agreement between the electoral authority and the OAS, the Organization's observers are permitted to enter the polling station for this process.
- d) With all witnesses present, the presiding officer:
- Counts the number of names on the registry of those who voted.
 - Below the last name in the voter registry, certifies the number of people who voted at the polling station.
 - Counts the spoiled votes and places them in an envelope, indicates the number and seals it. If no spoiled ballots, he/she writes the word "none" on the envelope.
 - Counts unused ballots and puts with stubs of the used ballots in the provided envelope, seals and endorses it.
 - Checks the number of ballots supplied by the returning office against spoiled ballots, unused ballots and voters. This should be equal to ballots provided. This information is included in the preliminary statement of the count.
 - Distributes tally sheets to poll clerk and party agents. Proceeds to count votes.
 - Empties ballot box on table, unfolds ballots.
 - Verifies that his/her initials are present and calls out the name of the candidate for whom each ballot is marked.
 - All present should be able to see the name of the candidate for whom each ballot has been marked, the initials of the presiding officer and the official mark.
 - Ballots for each candidate are placed in separate piles.
 - Presiding officer may reject ballot if:
 - It does not have the official mark
 - It is not marked for a candidate
 - If it is marked for more than one candidate
 - It contains a mark or writing which could identify the voter
 - It is marked with any symbol other than a cross or an X
 - It is marked with pen.
 - Ballots for each candidate should be placed in separate envelopes.
 - The presiding officer notes on the envelope the number of ballots and name of the candidate.
 - Rejected ballots are put in a different envelope and the number is recorded in the space provided. If no rejected ballots, the officer writes 'NONE'.
 - All envelopes are then sealed.
 - The presiding officer completes and signs three copies of preliminary statement of poll.
 - One copy in placed in the envelope for returning officer
 - Second copy in the ballot box
 - He/she retains the third copy
 - Ballot box key is placed in another envelope.
 - Envelopes with voter list and ballot papers are placed in a large envelope which is then placed in the ballot.
 - The presiding officer then locks and seals the ballot box.
 - The presiding officer, poll clerk and party agents sign the seals.

- The remaining material should be placed in a separate envelope and kept separate from the ballot boxes.

4. Delivery of voting materials to the returning officers

- The presiding officer, poll clerk, party agents, and police officer transport the preliminary statement of poll, the ballot box and the other materials to the returning officer.
- Returning officer phones the supervisor of elections with the preliminary results.

5. Final count

- The day after Election Day, in presence of candidates or agents, the returning officer does a recount of all ballots cast in each polling station.
- Following the recount, the returning officer prepares the official writ to be issued by the Governor General.
- The electoral process officially ends when the returning officer signs and returns to supervisor of elections a writ with the names of the winning candidates in each constituency.
- The supervisor of elections transmits the writs to the governor general who administers the oath of office to the elected member of the House of Assembly.

CHAPTER III: PARTICIPANTS IN THE ELECTORAL PROCESS

The December 7 General Elections were contested by three political parties: the ruling party, the Unity Labor Party (ULP) led by Dr. The Honorable Ralph E. Gonsalves with 12 seats; the opposition party, the New Democratic Party (NDP) led by the Honorable Arnhim Eustace with 3 seats; and a newly formed party, the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Green Party, led by Mr. Ivan O’Neale, which held no parliamentary seats, having been established a few months prior to the elections.

A. NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY (NDP)

The New Democratic Party (NDP) was founded in 1975 by Sir James Mitchell of the Grenadine island of Bequia. The NDP won four successive elections (1984, 1989, 1994, and 1998), obtaining all 15 seats in Parliament in 1989. In the general elections of 1998, the NDP won 45 percent of the popular vote, but secured a one-seat majority in Parliament. Since the unexpected resignation of Sir James Mitchell as Party Leader and Prime Minister on October 27, 2000, then Minister of Finance, Arnhim Eustace assumed these posts.

The symbol of the NDP is the key, and its official color is yellow. The NDP won 3 of 15 seats in the March 28, 2001 elections.

B. UNITY LABOUR PARTY (ULP)

Following the union of the St. Vincent Labour Party, headed by Vincent Beache, then leader of the opposition, and the Movement for National Unity, headed by Ralph E. Gonsalves, the Unity Labour Party was founded in October 1994. Beache and Gonsalves became the leader and deputy leader of the party, respectively. In 1994, the ULP won three seats in Parliament. In 1998, the ULP increased its number of seats in Parliament to seven, one short of a governing majority, despite winning 55 percent of the popular vote.

In November 1998, Dr. Gonsalves was elected leader of the party, and Ormiston “Ken” Boyea became deputy leader. (Boyea eventually resigned from the party to create the People’s Progressive Movement, and Louis Straker took his place as deputy leader).

The party symbol of the ULP is the star and its color is red. In the March 28, 2001, elections, the ULP won 12 of the 15 seats, and Dr. Gonsalves became the new Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

C. ST.VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES GREEN PARTY

The Green Party was co-founded in 2005 by Messrs. Ivan O’Neale and Ordan Graham and is led by O’Neale.

The party symbol of the Green Party is the telephone and its color is green. The Green Party is of recent creation and hence was not represented in Parliament. In the December 7 elections the Party fielded candidates in four of the 15 constituencies.

CHAPTER IV: OPERATION AND OBSERVATIONS OF THE OAS ELECTORAL MISSION

A. ORGANIZATION OF THE MISSION

Due to the short lead time available to the Observation Mission prior to polling day the Mission was unable to carry out the full spectrum of pre-electoral activities which would have been incorporated into a longer term electoral observation process. The time available was just enough to permit planning, seeking external resources, organization and deployment. The Mission arrived just prior to the conclusion of the electoral campaign, hence its observation relates to the time frame immediately preceding Election Day, the electoral process of December 7 and announcement of the preliminary results of the election on December 8.

The Mission's work began immediately upon arrival with an internal briefing, planning and coordination session at the Mission's headquarters. In the following two days the Chief of Mission met with government officials, political party leaders, the Supervisor of Elections, the Coordinator of the National Monitoring and Consultative Mechanism (NMCM) and members of the Christian Council, a political researcher and members of the resident diplomatic corps, and the CARICOM Electoral Observation Mission.

The two volunteer observers from the US Embassy in Barbados joined the Mission on December 6, at which time a training session was held to brief them on the OAS election observation methodology. Another planning session was also held to finalize the Mission's Election Day deployment plan, aimed at maximum coverage of the constituencies. Serious consideration was given to deploying an observer to the Southern Grenadines, which had been identified as a possible area of contention meriting observation; however ultimately this proved impossible due to the fact that air tickets were completely sold out.

The Mission produced its own credentials identifying its affiliation with the OAS, while the Electoral Office provided each observer with credential and a photograph to facilitate access to the polling stations and returning offices. Each observer was assigned at least two constituencies and provided with a vehicle and driver/guide, a list of the polling stations, an OAS electoral observer jacket and cap, a map, forms to record observations on the electoral process, and a cellular phone to report their observations to the Chief of Mission or in case of emergency.

B. PRE-ELECTORAL CLIMATE

In the period prior to the polling day, various issues had emerged, several of which were brought to the Mission's attention during its program of meetings. Issues included the enumeration and registration of new voters. The opposition NDP considers these processes to have been ineffectively conducted, leaving unresolved points relating to a large voters' list which, due to the practice of continuous registration, was established at 91, 023 eligible voters in a population of some 110, 000. In addition, constituencies which generated much pre-electoral analysis included East Kingston (seat of the leader of the opposing party) as well as the Southern Grenadines. In the latter case the opposition NDP was concerned that traditional voting patterns strongly favoring the NDP could be affected by migrant workers who now sought to vote in that constituency.

Another thorny issue raised by the opposition was the practice of registering voters at the private residence of registration officers, which could potentially foster lack of transparency, hinder

access to registration authorities and lead to possible abuses in the registration process. The Mission was handed copies of two formal written complaints from the NDP to the supervisor of elections on this issue as well as a complaint alleging improper conduct by electoral authorities and a complaint of failure to properly purge the voter list.

C. ELECTION DAY OBSERVATIONS

The observers were deployed in some 95 polling stations. They were present from the opening of assigned polling stations and observed voting in the various constituencies throughout the day. At the close of the polls information was collected from selected polling stations on the count and transmission of ballots and results to the Returning Officer of the constituency. Observers obtained information through firsthand observation and through interviews with the presiding officers, poll clerks, party agents, police officers, and voters.

D. CARICOM ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSION

There was informal exchange of information with the five-member Electoral Observation Mission of the CARICOM.

E. NATIONAL MONITORING AND CONSULTATIVE COMMISSION (NMCM)

The NMCM, a national civil society group observed the electoral process in each of the 15 constituencies. This civil society group had been established by the Christian Council of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The NMCM membership comprises political parties as well as civil society organizations, including the Organization in Defense of Democracy, the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Chamber of Commerce, the National Labor Congress, the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Bar Association, the National Youth Council, and the National Women's Council. The NMCM received government funding to conduct its electoral observation activities.

CHAPTER V: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

CONCLUSIONS

As stated in the press release with its preliminary assessment of the electoral process in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, from its observations the OAS Electoral Observation Mission concluded that the December 7 elections concluded without major incidents or systemic irregularities, confirming the commitment of the people of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to the democratic process. Notwithstanding poor weather conditions, voters lined up at polling stations from early morning. It is important to note the inability of the team to observe pre-election processes and activities. They were also unable to observe the Southern Grenadines during the election due to logistical problems. The following are among the salient features observed by the Mission:

1. On Election Day political parties attempted to ensure that the electoral process was efficiently and peacefully conducted. The active presence of party agents at the polling stations, specifically from the ULP and NDP, was testimony to this commitment, and cooperation between agents of different parties at the polling stations to ensure compliance with the electoral procedures was frequently observed. Political party agents were present in most of the polling stations. They

conducted themselves in a professional and courteous manner and enhanced the transparency of the process.

2. Proselytizing activities very prevalent during the electoral campaign largely ceased on Election Day as required by law.
3. The active role played by National Monitoring and Consultative Mechanism (NMCM) was evident, and its members were observed in action on the Mission's deployment routes. NMCM observers were clearly identified with T-shirts, and credentials provided by the Electoral Office. The NMCM observers seem to have been well received by both the presiding officers and voters.
4. The news media played an active role during the electoral process with commentary, information and coverage, although most of the print media is available only on a weekly basis. The Mission observed, however, that some of the media tended to be affiliated to one of the two major parties.
5. Police officers assigned to duty on Election Day played a positive role in contributing to the security of the polling stations and in ensuring the orderly and efficient conduct of the process. Police units were present in all of the polling stations and played a constructive role in keeping the lines of voters in order or responding to requests for assistance. In no way did they interfere with the secrecy of the vote or try to influence a voter's choice. Deployment of the police was based on the home constituency of the officers so that they could vote.
6. The Mission observed that special considerations were given to elderly or physically challenged voters and presiding officers generally dealt with such persons with sensitivity and in accordance with legal stipulations.
7. The most significant factor observed during this electoral process was the electorate's keen and orderly participation. The Mission observed eager participation evidenced by long lines of voters, a demonstration of patience in long lines and inclement weather, and generally orderly behavior. The Mission expresses its satisfaction with the conduct of the electorate and recognizes the work performed by the electoral authorities to ensure compliance with the Constitution, Electoral Law and relevant regulations. Despite these efforts, the OAS Electoral Observation Mission encountered some administrative shortcomings in the electoral procedures. However, the Mission considers that these shortcomings did not jeopardize the transparency nor the outcome of the elections.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Electoral Observation Mission recommends:

1. Analysis by the electoral authorities of the means to address the question of the excessively large voters' list. This was a constant source of tension in the present electoral process. Perhaps the most effective way to address this would be a new enumeration of voters which would permit the creation of a list satisfying all parties concerned in that it actually reflects the number of eligible voters in each constituency. Individuals who might be returning to the country and who were eligible to vote could submit a new registration application.

Moreover, while the Mission was not present during the registration period, from interviews conducted it is recommended that the regulations relating to voter registration be revised for greater clarity. There were complaints that some voters had transferred their primary domicile without fulfilling the minimum six-month residence requirement in the constituency.

2. It is recommended that there be enhanced training of electoral officers to ensure greater familiarity with voting procedures. For the most part the officials seemed competent, knowledgeable and efficient. However difficulties were observed with some of the more complex and lengthy procedures, in particular procedures for the closing of the polls and recording the results of the preliminary count.
3. Analysis by government and the political parties of the positive role of the NMCM as a local observer group to contribute to the democratic process. In the December 7, 2005 elections the NMCM seemed to operate in a genuinely non-partisan way and its operation can be seen as a genuine civic exercise contributing to the democratic health of the country. Consideration should be given to strengthening the NMCM as one of the institutions of the electoral process in St Vincent and the Grenadines, an institution which moreover can contribute to generating greater confidence in the process. With adequate funding and training, the NMCM could be a watchdog civil society organization on electoral processes in periods leading up to Election Day. Consideration could also be given to exchanges of information and experiences with national electoral observation groups from other countries.

APPENDIX I

Letter of invitation and response from OAS Secretary General

OCT-04-2005 10:23 AM PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE +57 2152



The Prime Minister
St. Vincent and the Grenadines
West Indies

October 03, 2005

H.E. Mr. Jose Miguel Insulza
Secretary General
Organisation of American States
17 Street and Constitution Ave.
Washington D.C., 20006
U.S.A.

Dear Secretary General,

Sometime before March 31, 2006, general elections will be held in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. I am formally requesting that the Organisation of American States send a manageable team of observers for these elections. I am also inviting CARICOM and the Commonwealth Secretariat to send observers.

In our tradition, a notice of between three to four weeks is normally given of the actual date for the general elections. It means, therefore, that should your organisation accede to this request, your team has to be put on notice for prompt dispatch.

in St. Vincent and the Grenadines there is a National Monitoring and Consultative Mechanism (NMCM) headed by the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Christian Council which has already been activated for monitoring purposes. This body was established by an all-party agreement for the last general elections in 2001.

Our country has a well-deserved reputation for holding free and fair elections in accordance with the highest standards internationally. Your "Observer Mission" would be helpful in the maintenance of these standards.

Once you agree to send a Team, please advise on the details

Please free to contact the Supervisor of Elections, Mr. Rodney Adams, whose independent office manages in every respect the electoral process with his staff at the Electoral Office.

Tel: 784-456-1700 • Fax: 784-457-2162

pmo@stvincent.gov.tt

OCT-04-2005 10:24 AM PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE 437 2132

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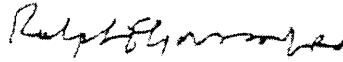
H.E. Mr. José Insuiza
Secretary General, OAS

October 03, 2005

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Feel free too, to contact Mr. Godfred Pompey, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of National Security and the Public Service in which resides broad administrative oversight for the Electoral Office.

Sincerely yours,



Dr. The Hon. Ralph E. Gonsalves
Prime Minister

ccw

copy: Secretary General of CARICOM
Secretary General of the Commonwealth
Minister of National Security and the Public Service
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of National Security and the Public Service
Supervisor of Elections



Organización de los Estados Americanos
 Organização dos Estados Americanos
 Organisation des États américains
 Organization of American States

November 21, 2005


Excellency:

I have the honor to address Your Excellency in reference to the invitation by Your Excellency's Government for the Organization of American States (OAS) to be present during the General Elections on December 7, 2005. I also refer to my letter of October 19, 2005, in which I informed Your Excellency of the intention of the OAS to deploy a mission, subject to the receipt of sufficient external funds.

I take this opportunity officially to designate the Assistant Secretary General of the OAS, Ambassador Albert R. Ramdin, as the Chief of Mission.

Should Your Excellency's Government have any questions, or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the Assistant Secretary General.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.


 José Miguel Insulza
 Secretary General

His Excellency
 Ellsworth I. A. John
 Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
 to the Organization of American States
 Washington, D.C.

Organization of American States
 17th & Constitution Ave. N.W.
 Washington, D.C. 20006

APPENDIX II

Agreement between the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States and the Ministry of National Security, the Public Service, Air and Seaport Development of St. Vincent and the Grenadines

AGREEMENT BETWEEN
 THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE
 ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES,
 AND THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY, THE
 PUBLIC SERVICE, AIR AND SEAPORT DEVELOPMENT OF ST. VINCENT
 AND THE GRENADINES AND THE SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS,
 ON THE ELECTORAL OBSERVATION PROCESS

The Parties, the Ministry of National Security, the Public Service, Air and Seaport Development of St. Vincent and the Grenadines (hereinafter referred to as the "Ministry") and the Supervisor of Elections (hereinafter referred to as the "Supervisor of Elections") and the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (hereinafter referred to as "GS/OAS"),

CONSIDERING:

THAT on the 3rd day of October 2005, the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines (hereinafter referred to as "the Government"), through its Prime Minister, invited the Secretary General of the Organization of American States (hereinafter referred to as "the Secretary General") to send an Electoral Observation Mission (hereinafter referred to as "the Mission") to St. Vincent and the Grenadines for the purpose of witnessing the elections to the House of Assembly to be held on December 7, 2005;

THAT in Resolution AG/RES. (XIX-O/89), the General Assembly of the OAS recommended to the Secretary General that "when a member state so requests in the exercise of its sovereignty, missions should be organized and sent to said state to monitor the development, if possible at all stages, of each of its electoral processes;"

THAT Article 24 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter states in pertinent part as follows:

The electoral observation missions shall be carried out at the request of the member state concerned. To that end, the government of that state and the Secretary General shall enter into an agreement establishing the scope and coverage of the electoral observation mission in question. The member state shall guarantee conditions of security, free access to information, and full cooperation with the electoral observation mission.

Electoral observation missions shall be carried out in accordance with the principles and norms of the OAS. The Organization shall ensure that these missions are effective and independent and shall provide them with the necessary resources for that purpose. They

shall be conducted in an objective, impartial, and transparent manner and with the appropriate technical expertise.

THAT in a letter dated October 19, 2005, the Secretary General responded to the Government's request to send the Mission with the objective of observing the House of Assembly elections on December 7, 2005;

AGREE:

First: Guarantees

a.) The Ministry and the Supervisor of Elections guarantee the Mission access to all facilities for the adequate fulfillment of the observation of the elections on December 7, 2005, in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, in conformity with the relevant laws and standards of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and the terms of this Agreement;

b.) The Ministry and the Supervisor of Elections, on and after the day of the elections and will guarantee the Mission access to all polling stations and other locations and facilities related to the election until the official count is tabulated nationally;

c.) The Ministry and the Supervisor of Elections will guarantee the Mission complete access to the locations in which the process of counting and tabulating votes will take place.

Second: Information

a.) The Ministry and the Supervisor of Elections will furnish the Mission with all information referring to the organization, direction and supervision of the electoral process. The Mission may request of the Ministry and the Supervisor of Elections such additional information as is necessary for the exercise of the Mission's functions, and the Ministry and the Supervisor of Elections shall promptly furnish all such information;

b.) The Mission may inform the Ministry and the Supervisor of Elections about any irregularities and/or interference, which the Mission might observe or of which the Mission might learn. Similarly, the Mission may request the Ministry and the Supervisor of Elections to provide any information regarding the measures, which the Ministry and the Supervisor of Elections will take in relation to such irregularities, and Ministry and the Supervisor of Elections shall promptly furnish all such information;

c.) The Ministry and the Supervisor of Elections will provide the Mission with information related to the electoral list and other computerized electoral data referring to the same. Similarly, the Ministry and the Supervisor of Elections will provide all other information relative to the computer systems used on Election Day, and will offer demonstrations of the systems' operation to the Mission;

d.) The Ministry and the Supervisor of Elections will guarantee the Mission access to all electoral bodies responsible for vote counting and tabulation. Similarly, the Ministry and the Supervisor of Elections will permit the Mission to conduct any evaluations deemed necessary by the Mission of the voting system and of the communication utilized to transmit electoral results. At the same time, the Ministry and the Supervisor of Elections will guarantee the Mission complete access to the complaints process and quality controls that occur before and after the electoral process and are of interest to the Mission.

e.) The Ministry and the Supervisor of Elections further guarantee the Mission access to all polling stations and other bodies throughout the national territory of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Upon request of the Mission, the Ministry and the Supervisor of Elections guarantee to make available by the end of the voting process and, before the closing of the polling stations, copies of all documents printed electronically.

Third: General Provisions

a.) The Secretary General designates the Assistant Secretary General, Albert R. Ramdin as Chief of Mission, who will represent the Mission and its members before the Ministry and the Supervisor of Elections and before the Government;

b.) The GS/OAS will communicate to Minister of National Security and the leadership of the Supervisor of Elections the names of the persons who will comprise the group of observers, who will be duly identified;

c.) The Mission will act impartially, objectively and independently in the fulfillment of its mandate;

d.) The General Secretariat will send to the leadership of the Ministry and the Supervisor of Elections a copy of the final report of the Electoral Observation Mission following the election of the Members of the House of Assembly;

e.) The Ministry and the Supervisor of Elections will make known and disseminate the contents of this Agreement among all electoral bodies and among all personnel involved in the electoral process.

Fourth: Privileges and Immunities

Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as an express or implied waiver of the privileges and immunities of the OAS or any of its organs may enjoy under the Charter of the Organization, the Agreement between the GS/OAS and the Government in relation to the privileges and immunities of each of the members of the group of observers of the election process in St. Vincent and the Grenadines signed by the Parties on the ____ day of _____, 2005, or under international law

Fifth: Resolution of controversies

The Parties shall attempt to resolve through direct negotiations any disputes arising in relation to the interpretation and/or implementation of this Agreement. If the negotiations do not result in the resolution of the dispute, the matter shall be submitted to arbitration in accordance with the procedure agreed to by the Parties.

Sixth: Amendments

Amendments to this Agreement shall be made in a writing signed by the duly authorized representatives of the Parties and attached hereto.

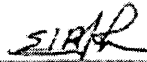
IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorized, have signed this Agreement in duplicate on the date and locations indicated below.

FOR THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT
OF THE ORGANIZATION OF
AMERICAN STATES

FOR THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL
SECURITY, THE PUBLIC SERVICE,
AIR AND SEAPORT DEVELOPMENT
OF ST. VINCENT AND THE
GRENADINES, AND THE
SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS



Title: _____
Location: Washington, D.C., USA
Date: 10 NOV. 2005



Title: _____
Location: Washington, D.C., USA
Date: 10 NOV. 2005

APPENDIX III

Agreement between the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and the General Secretariat of the Organization of American on the Privileges and Immunities of the Electoral Process in St. Vincent and the Grenadines of December 7, 2005

**AGREEMENT BETWEEN
 THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES
 AND THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE
 ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
 ON THE PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES OF THE ELECTION PROCESS IN
 ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES OF DECEMBER 7, 2005**

The Parties to this Agreement, the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (hereinafter the "GS/OAS") and the Government of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines (hereinafter "the Government"),

WHEREAS:

The Government invited the Organization of American States (hereinafter, "the OAS") to support the democratic process in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, in the framework of general elections to be held on December 7, 2005,

The Secretary General of the OAS, in a letter dated October 19, 2005, informed the Government that he accepted the invitation to establish a Group of Observers to conduct an OAS Observer Mission in St. Vincent and the Grenadines (hereinafter "the Group of Observers") for these elections, subject to obtaining the necessary resources to finance the establishment of the OAS Observer Mission in St. Vincent and the Grenadines (hereinafter sometimes referred to as the "Mission" or the "OAS Mission"),

The Group of Observers will be comprised of officials of the GS/OAS and other international observers specifically under contract to the GS/OAS for the OAS Mission,

The basic privileges and immunities enjoyed by the OAS, the GS/OAS, and its staff in St. Vincent and the Grenadines are set out in the Charter of the Organization and in the Agreement between the Government and the GS/OAS for the Establishment and Functioning in St. Vincent and the Grenadines of the Office of the GS/OAS in St. Vincent and the Grenadines of December 6, 1984;

NOW THEREFORE:

The Government and the GS/OAS

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

CHAPTER I:
PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES OF THE GROUP OF OBSERVERS

ARTICLE I

The privileges and immunities of the Group of Observers shall be those accorded to the OAS, to the GS/OAS, and to their organs and staff.

ARTICLE II

1. The property and effects of the Group of Observers, in any part of the territory of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and in possession of any person, shall enjoy immunity against any type of judicial proceeding, save in those specific cases for which said immunity is expressly waived by the Secretary General of the OAS.
2. However, it is understood that said waiver of immunity shall not have the effect of subjecting any such property and effects to any type of measure of execution.

ARTICLE III

1. The premises occupied by the Group of Observers shall be inviolable.
2. The property and effects of the Group of Observers, in any part of the territory of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and in possession of any person or entity, shall enjoy immunity against search and seizure, confiscation, expropriation and against any form of intervention, be it executive, administrative, judicial or legislative.

ARTICLE IV

The files of the Group of Observers and all of the documents pertaining thereto or in the possession of any person or entity shall be inviolable wherever they are located.

ARTICLE V

The Group of Observers shall be:

- a) exempt from any internal taxation, it being understood, however, that they may not claim any type of tax exemption that is in fact a remuneration for public services;
- b) exempt from any type of customs duty, prohibition and restriction in respect of articles and publications that they may import or export for their official use. It is understood, however, that the articles they import duty-free may be sold within the country only in accordance with conditions expressly agreed upon with the Government; and
- c) exempt from ordinances, regulations or moratoria of any kind. Moreover, they may have currency of any type, carry their accounts in any foreign currency and transfer their funds in foreign currency.

CHAPTER II MEMBERS OF THE GROUP OF OBSERVERS

ARTICLE VI

The members of the Group of Observers shall be those who have been designated by the GS/OAS and accredited with the St. Vincent and the Grenadines authorities.

ARTICLE VII

For the period during which the members of the Group of Observers exercise their functions and during their trips to and from St. Vincent and the Grenadines, they shall enjoy the following privileges and immunities:

- a.) Immunity from personal detention or arrest as well as immunity from any type of legal proceeding in respect of their actions and statements, be they oral or written, done in the performance of their functions;
- b.) The inviolability of all papers and documents;
- c.) The right to communicate with the GS/OAS via radio, telephone, telegraph, satellite or other means, and to receive documents and correspondence through messengers or in sealed pouches, enjoying for that purpose the same privileges and immunities accorded to diplomatic mail, messages and pouches;
- d.) The right to utilize for their movements throughout the national territory, any means of transportation, be it by air, by water or over land;
- e.) Exemption in respect of their persons and that of their spouses and children, from any type of immigration restriction and registration of aliens and any type of national service in St. Vincent and the Grenadines;
- f.) The same privileges accorded to the representatives of foreign governments on official mission in respect to foreign-currency restrictions;
- g.) The same immunities and privileges in respect of their personal baggage as are accorded to diplomatic envoys; and
- h.) Such other privileges, immunities and facilities as are compatible with the foregoing, and enjoyed by diplomatic envoys, with the exception that they shall not enjoy any exemption from customs duties on imported merchandise (that is not part of their personal effects) or sales taxes or consumer taxes.

ARTICLE VIII

The provisions contained in the preceding article do not apply to nationals of St. Vincent and the Grenadines working as local contract staff in the Group of Observers, save in respect of official acts performed or statements issued in the exercise of their functions.

CHAPTER III

COOPERATION WITH THE AUTHORITIES

ARTICLE IX

The Group of Observers shall cooperate with the relevant St. Vincent and the Grenadines authorities to prevent any occurrence of abuse in respect of the specified privileges and immunities. Similarly, the relevant authorities shall do whatever is possible to provide the cooperation requested of them by the Group of Observers.

ARTICLE X

Without prejudice to the immunities and privileges accorded, the Group of Observers shall respect the laws and regulations existing in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

ARTICLE XI

The Government and the GS/OAS shall take any measures necessary to procure an amicable arrangement in the proper settlement of:

- a) Any disputes that may arise in contracts or other questions of private law;
- b) Any disputes to which the Group of Observers may be party with respect to matters in which they enjoy immunity.

CHAPTER IV

NATURE OF PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES

ARTICLE XII

1. The privileges and immunities are granted to the members of the Group of Observers in order to safeguard their independence in the exercise of their functions of observing the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Election Process and not for personal gain or to perform activities of a political nature within the territory of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

2. The Secretary General of the OAS may waive the privileges and immunities of any of the members of the Group of Observers who, in his judgment, in the exercise of those privileges and immunities obstruct the course of justice and so long as the Secretary General determines that such waiver does not prejudice the interests of the OAS or of the GS/OAS.

CHAPTER V

GENERAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE XIII

1. The Government recognizes the "Official Travel Document" issued by the GS/OAS as a valid and sufficient document for purposes of travel by the members of the Group of Observers who possess one.
2. The Government shall issue to each member of the Group of Observers a visa to enter the country and to remain therein until the end of the OAS Mission.

ARTICLE XIV

The Government agrees to extend the privileges and immunities of the present Agreement to members of the Group of Observers designated by the GS/OAS, who have been accredited by the St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

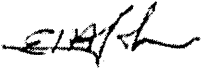
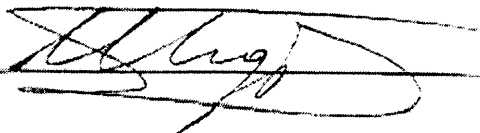
ARTICLE XV

This agreement may be amended by mutual consent in writing by the duly authorized representatives of the Government and of the GS/OAS.

ARTICLE XVI

This agreement shall enter into force on the date of its signature and shall cease to have effect once the members of the Group of Observers have completed the Mission, in accordance with the terms of the request made by the Government.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, duly authorized, do hereby sign this agreement, in duplicate, in the city of (insert city), on the 10th day of the month of *Nov* in the year two thousand five.

<p style="text-align: center;">FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">FOR THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p>
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APPENDIX IV

Press Releases relating to the OAS Electoral Observation Mission

Organization of American States**www.oas.org****OAS TO OBSERVE ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES DECEMBER 7
GENERAL ELECTIONS****PRESS RELEASE/ November 10, 2005**

The Organization of American States (OAS) will deploy a team of election observers to St. Vincent and the Grenadines to observe the Caribbean nation's December 7 general elections. Assistant Secretary General Albert R. Ramdin will be the chief of the observation mission.

Secretary General José Miguel Insulza and St. Vincent and the Grenadines Permanent Representative, Ambassador Ellsworth John, today signed agreements formalizing the arrangements, during a ceremony at OAS headquarters. One of the agreements, between the OAS and the Electoral Office of St. Vincent and the Grenadines' Ministry of National Security and the Public Service, gives the electoral observation mission access to the electoral machinery, while the other relates to the privileges and immunities that will be given the OAS monitors while they are covering the general election process.

"Both major political parties in St. Vincent and the Grenadines consider it a very important function for the OAS to be present at our elections as observers," Ambassador John stated, after signing the agreements. Speaking on behalf of the government and the elections authorities, the ambassador pledged cooperation with the observer mission "in every way possible," and said Ambassador Ramdin and the team of observers would be welcomed warmly in his country. John expressed the hope that the upcoming elections will be given "a clean bill of health in terms of the efficiency" of the process.

For his part, Secretary General Insulza stressed how the OAS values the exercise to the extent that, "We have decided that the Assistant Secretary General himself will lead delegation to the observation of the elections." Mr. Insulza went on to note the significance of the confidence invested in the hemispheric organization through the invitation to observe the elections.

On hand to witness the agreement signing were, among others, the OAS Permanent Council's Chairman, Ambassador Izben Williams of St. Kitts and Nevis, Assistant Secretary General Ramdin, and officials of the Department of Democratic and Political Affairs that is coordinating the organization of the electoral observation mission.

Organization of American States
www.oas.org
ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL RAMDIN ARRIVING IN ST.
VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES SUNDAY LEADING OAS ELECTION
OBSERVATION MISSION
December 2, 2005

The Assistant Secretary General of the Organization of American States, Ambassador Albert R. Ramdin, arrives in St. Vincent and the Grenadines on Sunday, December 4, to lead a team of observers for the December 7 general elections. This electoral observation mission is comprised of a total of five members from Barbados, Colombia, Suriname and the United States. The mission is scheduled to depart on Friday, December 9.

In the period prior to the observation of the December 7 elections, a full schedule of courtesy calls and meetings has been programmed by the Chief of Mission with the intention of receiving information, views and opinions from a wide range of participants in the electoral process in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

On election day itself, the OAS mission will observe the voting process in several constituencies, from the opening to the closing of the various polling stations. The mission will also observe the vote counting process. Observers will also be present for the final count of the votes on December 8.

The OAS is sending this observation mission to observe this December 7 elections at the invitation of the St Vincent and the Grenadines government. The general objective of the mission is to signal OAS solidarity with the people of St Vincent and the Grenadines as the country continues to consolidate its democratic process.

Electoral observation missions are one of the instruments used by the OAS to contribute to promoting democracy in the hemisphere. Following the elections, the Chief of Mission will present a report on the observation to the Secretary General and to the Permanent Council of the OAS.

This observation mission was made possible through the contributions of the governments of Brazil and the United States.

Reference: E-279/05



ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSION TO ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

General Elections, December 7, 2005

PRESS RELEASE

On invitation from the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, an Electoral Observation Mission from the Organization of American States (OAS) observed the General Elections held in the country on December 7. Under the leadership of Ambassador Albert R. Ramdin, Assistant Secretary General of the OAS, the five member Electoral Observation team was deployed throughout the country, visiting 95 polling stations in thirteen of the country's fifteen constituencies.

The Electoral Observation Mission thus observed all aspects of the voting process on Election Day including the opening of polling stations, voting throughout the day and the preliminary vote count at the closing of the polls. The Mission also observed the transport and delivery of the ballot boxes to Returning Offices.

From its observations, the OAS Electoral Observation Mission concluded that, despite some shortcomings and unfavorable weather conditions, yesterday's elections unfolded in an atmosphere of tranquility, which permitted the electorate to exercise its choices through the polls. In the opinion of the Mission, electoral authorities worked diligently to ensure that voters were able to cast their ballots according to the Constitution, Electoral Law and relevant regulations and that the votes were efficiently counted and reported to the Returning Officers of each of the thirteen constituencies observed by the Mission. The encountered inconsistencies were not systemic and did not jeopardize the transparency and the inclusive nature of the election. With this in mind, the OAS mission expresses its satisfaction with the conduct of the elections.

The Electoral Observation Mission congratulates the citizens of St. Vincent and the Grenadines on yesterday's motivated display of civic duty. The elections proceeded without any major incidents and irregularities, giving testimony to the commitment of the people and government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines in the democratic process.

The OAS Mission maintained contact with the CARICOM Electoral Observation Mission led by H.E. Philip Smith and gratefully expresses appreciation for the coordination provided. The Observation Mission considers that the local electoral observation group, the National Monitoring and Consultative Mechanism (NMCM) also played a positive role in observing the electoral process.

The Mission extends its appreciation to the government and electoral authorities, political party representatives and the people of St. Vincent and the Grenadines for their cooperation and support. On the conclusion of its work, the Mission will present a verbal report and subsequently a final report to the Permanent Council of the OAS. The report will contain further details of the mission's observations, as well as recommendations on strengthening the electoral process which might be considered by the electoral authorities.

08 December 2005, Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines

APPENDIX V
Deployment Schedule of Observers



Organización de los Estados Americanos
 Organização dos Estados Americanos
 Organisation des États Américains
 Organization of American States

FINAL
 PROGRAM

**OAS OBSERVATION OF THE ELECTORAL PROCESS IN ST. VINCENT AND THE
 GRENADINES OF DECEMBER 7, 2005**

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Sunday, December 4, 2005

- 17:00 hrs Arrival of Anne-Marie Blackman and Katalina Montaña on Caribbean Sun flight 288.
- 17:10 hrs Arrival of Ambassador Albert R. Ramdin, OAS Assistant Secretary General and Chief of Mission, Caribbean Star 775
- 18:45 hrs Melene Glynn
 Director (a.i.), GS/OAS, St. Vincent and the Grenadines
- Roger Bart
 Senior Systems Analyst – OPD CPR
- Venue: OAS Mission Secretariat*

Monday, December 5, 2005

- 07:30 hrs Dr. the Hon. Ralph E. Gonsalves
 Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines
- Hon. Michael Browne
 Minister of Foreign Affairs, Commerce and Trade
- Venue: Prime Minister's official residence*
- 09:15 hrs Hon. Arnhim Eustace
 Leader of the Opposition
Venue: Democrat House
- 10:30 hrs Sir Vincent Beache
 Minister of National Security, the Public Service, Air and Seaport Development
Venue: Ministry of National Security
- 11:15 hrs H.E. Terry Knight
 UK Resident Commissioner
Venue: UK High Commission

- 12:00 hrs Mr. Cecil Ryan
Managing Director, Projects Promotions Limited
Venue: Cobblestone Inn
- 13:30 hrs Mr. Rodney Adams
Supervisor of Elections
Venue: Electoral Department
- 15:00 hrs Mr. Godfrey Samuel
Coordinator, National Monitoring and Consultative Mechanism; &
Archdeacon Sylvanus Regisford
Chairman, St. Vincent and the Grenadines Christian Council
Venue: NMCM Office, Methodist Church Hall
- 17:00 hrs H.E. Phillip Smith
High Commissioner of The Bahamas to Canada and
Chief of the CARICOM Electoral Observer Mission
Venue: OAS Mission Secretariat
- 19:00 hrs OAS Mission Debriefing and Planning Meeting
Venue: OAS Mission Secretariat

Tuesday, December 6, 2005

- 09:00 hrs OAS Mission Planning and Preparatory Activities
Venue: OAS Mission Secretariat
- 11:00 hrs Ms. Shannon Runyon
Political Secretary, US Embassy, Bridgetown, Barbados
Venue: OAS Mission Secretariat
- 14:30 hrs OAS Mission Planning and Preparatory Activities
Venue: OAS Mission Secretariat

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

- General Elections – Observation of the Poll
- 20:00 hrs Debriefing and Monitoring of Results
Venue: OAS Mission Secretariat

APPENDIX VI

**Official Results released by the Office of the Supervisor of
Elections**

This version is subject to revision and will not be available to the public pending consideration, as the case may be, by the Permanent Council

St Vincent and The Grenadines
ELECTORAL DIVISION
SUMMARY TOTALS FOR GENERAL ELECTIONS HELD ON 7th DECEMBER 2005

Constituency	Registered Voters	Ballots			Ballots Cast By Political Parties		
		Cast	Accepted	Rejected	NDP	GREEN PARTY	ULP
North Windward	5547	4,451	4,437	14	2,020	12	2,405
North Central Windward	5722	3,577	3,563	14	676		2,587
South Central Windward	6180	3,914	3,899	15	1,621	9	2,268
South Windward	5925	3,646	3,632	14	1,170	2	2,460
Mariaqua	6553	4,147	4,133	14	1,436		2,695
East St. George	7600	4,636	4,618	18	1,952	14	2,652
West St. George	7000	4,114	4,092	22	1,375		2,414
East Kingstown	7088	4,453	4,443	10	2,300		2,143
Central Kingstown	7017	3951	3,946	5	1,965		1,981
West Kingstown	6822	4032	3,989	43	1,977		2,012
South Leeward	7180	4537	4,521	16	2,203		2,316
Central Leeward	6035	4154	4,138	16	1,784		2,354
North Leeward	5482	3951	3,938	14	1,958		1,980
Northern Grenadines	3819	2516	2,502	14	1,855		647
Southern Grenadines	2899	1889	1,857	32	1,058		799
TOTALS	91,069	57,968	57,707	262	25,655	37	32,015
Percentage		63.65%	99.55%	0.454%	44.457%	0.064%	55.479%

This version is subject to revision and will not be available to the public pending consideration, as the case may be, by the Permanent Council

ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES
ELECTORAL DIVISION
SCORESHEET FOR GENERAL ELECTION HELD ON 7TH DECEMBER 2005

CONSTITUENCY OF : **North Windward**

Polls Stat	Location of Polling Stations	Registered Electors	Ballots		Ballots cast for Political Parties		
			Cast	Rejected	ULP Montgomery Daniel	NDP Elvis Daniel	GP Donald O'neal
NWA	Government School Fancy	396	293	1	90	202	0
NWB	Government School Owia	333	279	0	90	189	0
NWB1	Government School Owia	498	420	0	120	300	0
NWC	Old Sandy Bay Government School Sandy Bay	540	448	0	319	127	2
NWD	New Sandy Bay Government School Sandy Bay	543	435	3	329	102	1
NWD1	New Sandy Bay Government School Sandy Bay	459	365	4	247	114	0
NWE	Government School Overland	383	296	0	164	132	0
NWE1	Government School Overland	222	165	0	89	75	1
NWF	Government School Langley Park	376	269	1	149	117	2
NWF1	Government School Langley Park	377	294	1	156	136	1
NWG	Bethel Gospel Assemly Mt. Bentinck	368	259	1	147	110	1
NWG1	Bethel Gospel Assemly Mt. Bentinck	325	241	0	125	115	1
NWH	Government School Dickson	511	361	3	169	187	2
NWI	Water Works Mt. Bentinck	510	322	0	211	110	1
14		5,841	3884	14	2405	2016	12

This version is subject to revision and will not be available to the public pending consideration, as the case may be, by the Permanent Council

ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES
ELECTORAL DIVISION
SCORESHEET FOR GENERAL ELECTION HELD ON 7TH DECEMBER 2005

CONSTITUENCY OF : **North Central Windward**

Polls Stat	Location of Polling Stations	Registered Electors	Ballots		Ballots cast for Political Parties		
			Cast	Rejected	ULP Ralph Gonsalves	NDP Cameron Balcombe	
NCA	Georgetown Secondary School Georgetown	487	318	0	182	136	
			0				
NCB	Anglican Parish Hall Georgetown	360	217	4	139	74	
			0				
NCC	Lewis' Building Georgetown	302	208	1	151	56	
			0				
NCD	Bucky Boyea's Building Byera	352	194	0	137	57	
			0				
NCD1	Bucky Boyea's Building Byera	472	305	2	219	84	
			0				
NCE	Byera Health Clinic Byera	502	314	1	227	86	
			0				
NCE1	Byera Health Clinic Byera	459	339	1	262	76	
			0				
NCF	South Rivers Primary School South Rivers	453	276	0	253	23	
			0				
NCF1	South Rivers Primary School South Rivers	445	261	1	243	17	
			0				
NCF2	South Rivers Primary School South Rivers	380	214	0	209	5	
			0				
NCG	Park Hill Health Clinic Park Hill	405	233	0	223	10	
			0				
NCG1	Park Hill Health Clinic Park Hill	271	171	0	160	11	
			0				
NCH	Park Hill Primary School Park Hill	482	318	2	295	21	
			0				
NCI	District Council Office Colonarie	354	209	2	187	20	
			0				
14		5,724	0	14	2,887	676	0
			3577				

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ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES
ELECTORAL DIVISION
SCORESHEET FOR GENERAL ELECTION HELD ON 7TH DECEMBER 2005
CONSTITUENCY OF : **Marriaqua**

Polls Stat	Location of Polling Stations	Registered Electors	Ballots		Ballots cast for Political Parties		
			Cast	Rejected	ULP Girlyn Miguel	NDP Advira Bennett	
MQA	Marriaqua Community Centre Mesopotamia	387	244	3	169	72	
MQA1	Marriaqua Community Centre Mesopotamia	477	306 0	1	207	98	
MQB	Government School Richland Park	396	260 0	1	181	78	
MQB1	Government School Richland Park	403	236 0	0	172	64	
MQC	George Charles Shop Richland Park	532	319 0	0	183	136	
MQC1	Roy Adams Shop Richland Park	557	352 0	0	236	116	
MQD	Mountain View Academy Richland Park	329	183 0	1	112	70	
MQD1	Mountain View Academy Richland Park	257	169 0	1	128	40	
MQE	Bun Pan Building Freeland	521	360 0	5	241	114	
MQF	Government School Cane End	382	259 0	1	191	67	
MQF1	Government School Cane End	344	220 0	0	148	72	
MQG	Gospell Hall Carriere	437	272 0	0	128	144	
MQG1	Gospell Hall Carriere	465	288 0	0	168	120	
MQH	Seventh Day Adventist Church Evesham	473	301 0	1	192	108	
MQI	Government School Evesham	344	218 0	0	133	85	
MQI1	Evesham Methodist School Evesham	247	160 0	0	106	54	
			0				

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16		6,551	4147	14	2,695	1,438	0
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ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES
ELECTORAL DIVISION
SCORESHEET FOR GENERAL ELECTION HELD ON 7TH DECEMBER 2005

CONSTITUENCY OF : **East St. George**

Polls Stat	Location of Polling Stations	Registered Electors	Ballots		Ballots cast for Political Parties		
			Cast	Rejected	ULP Clayton Burgin	NDP Dr. Linton Lewis	GP Ivan O' Neal
EGA	Community Centre Enhams	535	337 0	3	200	134	0
EGA1	Health Clinic Enhams	504	331 0	2	192	137	0
EGB	Sprinter Wood Workshop Belmont	487	287 0	1	187	99	0
EGB1	Sprinter Wood Workshop Belmont	461	254 0	0	170	84	0
EGC	Brenda Sandy's Res. Belvedere	539	316 0	1	197	117	1
EGC1	Simon Baptist Church Belvedere	546	322 0	2	210	110	0
EGD	Lester Cupid Tailor Shop Prospect	544	339 0	0	219	117	3
EGD1	Milton John's Shop Prospect	518	315 0	0	194	118	3
EGE	Town Hall Calliaqua	423	266 0	1	106	159	0
EGF	Health Clinic Glen	392	230 0	0	132	97	1
EGF1	Health Clinic Glen	393	231 0	0	133	97	1
EGF2	Health Clinic Glen	392	236 0	1	131	104	0
EGG	St. Vincent Community College Villa	428	221 0	3	109	106	3
EGG1	St. Vincent Community	316	181	1	100	80	0

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	College Villa		0				
EGH	Community Centre Glen	494	333	1	162	170	0
			0				
EGH1	Community Centre Glen	545	367	2	167	196	2
			0				
EGI	Brighton Primary School Brighton	83	70	0	43	27	0
			0				
17		7,600	4636	18	2,652	1,952	14

ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES
ELECTORAL DIVISION
SCORESHEET FOR GENERAL ELECTION HELD ON 7TH DECEMBER 2005

CONSTITUENCY OF : **Central Kingstown**

Polls Stat	Location of Polling Stations	Registered Electors	Ballots		Ballots cast for Political Parties		
			Cast	Rejected	ULP Conrad Sayers	NDP St. Clair Leacock	
CKA	Community Centre Redemption Sharpes	598	334	2	150	182	
			0				
CKA1	Community Centre Redemption Sharpes	536	326	1	142	183	
			0				
CKA2	Anglican Church Redemption Sharpes	532	307	1	111	195	
			0				
CKA3	Anglican Church Redemption Sharpes	516	307	2	128	177	
			0				
CKB	Randy Thorne's Residence Green Hill	407	257	1	132	124	
			0				
CKB1	Evangelical Church Green Hill	429	276	0	156	120	
			0				
CKB2	Evangelical Church Green Hill	391	254	0	145	109	
			0				
CKC	Guides Headquarters Kingstown Park	362	193	1	129	63	
			0				
CKC1	Guides Headquarters Kingstown Park	370	180	0	101	79	
			0				
CKD	Peters Ville School Kingstown Park	240	119	0	60	59	
			0				
CKE	Government School Lodge Village	410	180	0	82	98	
			0				

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CKE1	Government School Lodge Village	338	158	0	53	105	
			0				
CKF	Bishop's College Pauls Avenue	111	53	0	31	22	
			0				
CKG	Anglican School Kingstown	141	51	0	34	17	
			0				
CKH	Credit Union League Building Pauls Avenue	479	230	0	142	88	
			0				
CKI	Apostolic Faith Church Paul Over	438	280	1	134	145	
			0				
CKJ	Community Centre Largo Height	404	257	0	141	116	
			0				
CKJ1	Community Centre Largo Height	314	194	1	110	83	
			0				
18		7,016	0	10	1,981	1,965	0
			3956				

ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES
ELECTORAL DIVISION
SCORESHEET FOR GENERAL ELECTION HELD ON 7TH DECEMBER 2005

CONSTITUENCY OF : **West Kingstown**

Polls Stat	Location of Polling Stations	Registered Electors	Ballots		Ballots cast for Political Parties		
			Cast	Rejected	ULP Rene Baptiste	NDP Daniel Cummings	
WKA	Victoria Park Kingstown	181	74	2	31	41	
			0				
WKB	Public Health Building Rose Place	404	244	1	124	119	
			0				
WKC	Government School Stoney Ground	140	87	1	53	33	
			0				
WKD	NEMO Office Old Montrose	328	212	1	105	106	
			0				
WKD1	NEMO Office Old Montrose	258	153	1	95	57	
			0				
WKE	Netball Centre New Montrose	353	191	0	82	109	
			0				
WKE1	Netball Centre New Montrose	367	177	0	76	101	
			0				
WKF	Dennis Gaymes' Residence	510	291	19	137	135	

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	New Montrose		0				
WKF1	Dean's Residence	480	279	2	145	132	
	New Montrose		0				
WKG	Anglican Church	450	250	1	130	119	
	Lowmans Hill		0				
WKG1	Eileen James' Residence	411	230	1	117	112	
	Lowmans Hill		0				
WKH	Anglican School	516	309	3	158	148	
	Lowmans Leeward		0				
WKH1	Anglican School	566	362	1	169	192	
	Lowmans Leeward		0				
WKH2	Anglican School	465	295	1	148	146	
	Lowmans Leeward		0				
WKI	Post Office	465	302	0	163	139	
	Edinboro		0				
WKI1	Old Emmanuel School	436	272	2	137	133	
	Edinboro		0				
WKI2	Old Emmanuel School	491	0	2	142	155	
	Edinboro		299				
17		6,821	0	38	2,012	1,977	0
			4027				

ELECTORAL DIVISION
SCORESHEET FOR GENERAL ELECTION HELD ON 7TH DECEMBER 2005

CONSTITUENCY OF : **South Leeward**

Polls Stat	Location of Polling Stations	Registered Electors	Ballots		Ballots cast for Political Parties		
			Cast	Rejected	ULP Douglas Slater	NDP Nigel Stevenson	
SLA	Community Centre Rillan Hill	526	345	0	214	131	
			0				
SLB	Government School Dubois	432	266	0	163	103	
			0				
SLB1	Government School Dubois	427	291	2	189	100	
			0				
SLC	Ernie Matthis' Shop Vermont	492	305	3	191	111	
			0				
SLD	Community Centre Retreat	351	219	1	154	64	
			0				
SLD1	Community Centre Retreat	312	207	0	128	79	
			0				

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SLE	Government School Clare Valley	457	294	3	157	134	
			0				
SLE1	Government School Clare Valley	471	309	0	166	143	
			0				
SLF	Government School Questelles	502	310	0	142	168	
			0				
SLF1	Government School Questelles	426	268	0	109	159	
			0				
SLF2	Government School Questelles	507	303	1	137	165	
			0				
SLG	Methodist Church Chauncey	324	210	0	140	70	
			0				
SLG1	Methodist Church Chauncey	373	233	2	136	95	
			0				
SLH	Health Clinic Campden Park	431	254	1	90	163	
			0				
SLH1	Health Clinic Campden Park	347	213	2	73	138	
			0				
SLH2	Nurses Quarters Campden Park	385	253	1	55	197	
			0				
SLH3	Community Centre Campden Park	412	257	0	74	183	
			0				
17		7,175	4537	16	2,318	2,203	0

ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES
ELECTORAL DIVISION
SCORESHEET FOR GENERAL ELECTION HELD ON 7TH DECEMBER 2005

CONSTITUENCY OF : **Central Leeward**

Polls Stat	Location of Polling Stations	Registered Electors	Ballots		Ballots cast for Political Parties		
			Cast	Rejected	ULP Louis Straker	NDP Norrell Hull	
CLA	Secondary School Barrouallie	486	335	0	177	158	
CLA1	Secondary School Barrouallie	481	320	3	161	156	
			0				
CLB	Police Station Barrouallie	343	233	0	108	125	
			0				
CLB1	Police Station Barrouallie	270	187	0	105	82	
			0				

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CLC	Credit Union Office Barrouallie	421	294	0	138	156	
			0				
CLD	Government School Barrouallie	382	266	1	168	97	
			0				
CLD1	Government School Barrouallie	427	290	1	159	130	
			0				
CLE	Government School Layou	456	335	2	197	136	
			0				
CLE1	Government School Layou	489	318	2	216	100	
			0				
CLF	Pastoral Centre Layou	299	204	0	121	83	
			0				
CLF1	Layou Lodge Building Layou	338	223	0	138	85	
			0				
CLG	Methodist Church Layou	410	285	1	166	118	
			0				
CLH	Government School Buccament Bay	513	351	2	248	101	
			0				
CLI	Pentecostal Church School Keartons	373	278	3	136	139	
			0				
CLI1	Pentecostal Church School Keartons	343	235	1	116	118	
			0				
15		6,031	0	16	2,354	1,784	0
			4154				

ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES
ELECTORAL DIVISION
SCORESHEET FOR GENERAL ELECTION HELD ON 7TH DECEMBER 2005

CONSTITUENCY OF : **North Leeward**

Polls Stat	Location of Polling Stations	Registered Electors	Ballots		Ballots cast for Political Parties		
			Cast	Rejected	ULP Jerrol Thompson	NDP Roland Matthews	
NLA	4H Building Fitz Hughes	251	189	2	58	129	
			0				
NLB	Government School	413	305	0	107	198	

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	Fitz Hughes		0				
NLB1	Government School Fitz Hughes	403	284	1	97	186	
			0				
NLC	Old Methodist Church Chateaubelair	427	304	0	170	134	
			0				
NLD	Methodist School Chateaubelair	529	403	0	194	209	
			0				
NLE	Secondary School Petit Bordel	328	245	0	93	152	
			0				
NLE1	Secondary School Petit Bordel	329	270	2	65	203	
			0				
NLF	Community Centre Rose Bank	475	375	1	228	146	
			0				
NLG	Troumaca Gov't School Troumaca	439	283	2	185	96	
			0				
NLH	Government School Rose Hall	403	262	0	187	75	
			0				
NLH1	Government School Rose Hall	319	215	0	157	58	
			0				
NLI	Westwood Methodist School Coulls Hill	307	211	1	127	83	
			0				
NLJ	Methodist School Spring Village	409	277	2	163	112	
			0				
NLJ1	Methodist School Spring Village	449	329	3	149	177	
			0				
14		5,481	0				
			3952	14	1,980	1,958	0

ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES
ELECTORAL DIVISION
SCORESHEET FOR GENERAL ELECTION HELD ON 7TH DECEMBER 2005

CONSTITUENCY OF : **Northern Grenadines**

Polls Stat	Location of Polling Stations	Registered Electors	Ballots		Ballots cast for Political Parties		
			Cast	Rejected	ULP Herman Belmar	NDP Godwin Friday	
NGA	Bequia District Council Port Elizabeth	470	285	0	101	184	
			0				
NGB	Society Hall	544	338	3	116	219	

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	Port Elizabeth		0				
NGC	Lynthia Harris' Shop Hamilton	527	332	0	61	271	
			0				
NGD	Lisa's Apartment Belmont	372	239	0	63	176	
			0				
NGD1	Lisa's Apartment Belmont	367	226	1	65	160	
			0				
NGE	Athneal Ollivierre's Res. La Pompe	460	322	4	65	253	
			0				
NGE1	Health Clinic Paget Farm	429	292	2	61	229	
			0				
NGF	Society Hall Paget Farm	324	233	3	50	180	
			0				
NGF1	Society Hall Paget farm	258	177	1	48	128	
			0				
NGG	Government school Mustique	168	72	0	17	55	
			0				
10		3,919	2516	14	647	1,855	0

ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES
ELECTORAL DIVISION
SCORESHEET FOR GENERAL ELECTION HELD ON 7TH DECEMBER 2005

CONSTITUENCY OF : **Southern Grenadines**

Polls Stat	Location of Polling Stations	Registered Electors	Ballots		Ballots cast for Political Parties		
			Cast	Rejected	ULP Edwin Snagg	NDP Terrence Ollivierre	
SGA	Government School Canouan	411	278	2	97	179	
			0				
SGA1	Government School Canouan	364	246	5	66	175	
			0				
SGB	Government School Mayreau	170	135	4	34	97	
			0				
SGC	Government School Clifton	371	265	9	152	104	
			0				
SGC1	Government School Clifton	504	339	1	223	115	
			0				
SGD	Government School Ashton	438	308	5	111	192	
			0				
SGD1	Government School	439	318	6	116	196	

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	Ashton		0				
			0				
7		2,697	1889	32	799	1,058	0