

CONFIDENTIAL

10 DOWNING STREET

THIS FILE MUST NOT GO OUTSIDE 10 DOWNING ST

FILE TITLE: <i>Relations</i>		SERIES  <i>ST. VINCENT</i>
		PART:  <i>1</i>
PART BEGINS:  <i>June 1999</i>	PART ENDS:  <i>June 1991</i>	CAB ONE:

~~PREM 19/3269~~

PREM 19/3569

CONFIDENTIAL

**PART**

**CLOSED**

see 'Eastern Caribbean  
States'





Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

London SW1A 2AH

13 June 1991

*Dear Stephen*

Prime Minister of St Vincent

Thank you for your letter of 7 June telling us that Prime Minister James Mitchell of St Vincent and the Grenadines will be watching the Trooping of the Colour on 15 June from the Prime Minister's stand.

Mr Mitchell has been Prime Minister since 1984. He was re-elected in 1989 when his New Democratic Party won all 15 seats in the House of Assembly.

St Vincent, (population 115,000), became independent in 1979. It is a Realm and one of the poorest countries in the Eastern Caribbean (GDP per capita US\$1270). The economy depends on agriculture and tourism. Although it is the world's largest producer of arrowroot, bananas account for 60% of total exports and St Vincent is anxious about continued preferential access into EC markets after 1992. UK exports to St Vincent are very small and the balance of trade is heavily in St Vincent's favour.

St Vincent is a member of the Eastern Caribbean's Regional Security System and of the Caribbean Common Market and Community (CARICOM).

We share St Vincent's concern over drug trafficking in the region. The local coastguard has had some notable recent successes in interdiction but the Government is still dragging its heels over producing legislation for the tracing, freezing and confiscation of the assets of drug trafficking.

Mr Mitchell is the leading proponent of political unification of the four Windward Islands, the others

/being



being Dominica, Grenada and St Lucia. It remains to be seen if the islands will opt for a federal system of government.

I enclose a personality note on Mr Mitchell.

*Answer*  
*[Signature]*

(S L Gass)  
Private Secretary

J S Wall Esq CMG LVO  
10 Downing Street



MITCHELL, RT HON JAMES FITZ-ALLEN, MP

Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Foreign Affairs etc since July 1984.

NDP Member for the Grenadines.

Born Bequia 15 March 1931. Educated St Vincent Grammar School. Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, Trinidad and University of British Columbia.

Agricultural Research Officer 1958-60; Ministry of Overseas Development 1964-65; elected to Parliament 1966; Minister of Trade, Agriculture and Grenadines Affairs 1967-69; expelled from St Vincent Labour Party 1972; appointed Premier and Minister of Trade, Agriculture and Grenadines Affairs in alliance government with Ebenezer Joshua 1972-74; only member of own party to win a seat in the General Election 1974; formed New Democratic Party 1976; Parliamentary Candidate (South Central Windward) 1979; re-elected to Parliament (The Grenadines) 1980; issued Grenadines Declaration calling for a referendum on Independence for the Grenadines 1980; Leader of the Opposition from 1982-84.

His Party, which then included Cameron King, Milton Mayers, Victor Cuffy and Calder Williams, won two seats in the 1979 Election and was second in nine of the remaining eleven. He is thought to have had a commonality of views with Parnel Campbell (qv).

His Party's landslide win in the 1984 General Elections owed much to public disaffection with the government of the day. His NDP government was quickly accepted in the region as a moderate sensible administration. Won the 1989 Election by a landslide (15-0). NDP's success due in large measure to his own personal qualities. Stands head and shoulders above his colleagues in abilities and political skill. Shrewd, intelligent, quick and forthright. An easy man to like and respect. Firm believer in kicking political opponents when they are down. Probably the only man in St Vincent to be able to successfully hold such power. Paid an official visit to the UK in 1989 (under Category I Sponsored Visitors Scheme).

Divorced from his Canadian wife but she still runs a small restaurant near Mitchell's hotel on Bequia. Three daughters.

St. Vincent. Relation

June 79





10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Private Secretary*

7 June 1991

PRIME MINISTER OF ST. VINCENT

The Prime Minister of St. Vincent, Mr. James Mitchell, will be attending Trooping the Colour on Saturday 14 June accompanied by a longstanding friend of his called Miss Cadet.

The Prime Minister of St. Vincent will watch the ceremony from the Prime Minister's stand and I should be grateful if you could let me have a very short brief on St. Vincent. What I need, please, is one side of facts on St. Vincent and one side of personality note on Mr. Mitchell.

Could this please reach me by Thursday 12 June.

J. S. WALL

Simon Gass, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

MEM

B.R.  
STEPHEN

### Trooping the Colour on 15 June

The High Commissioner for Eastern Caribbean States has been in touch with Protocol Department to say that the Prime Minister of St. Vincent will be arriving in this country on 14 June and would like to watch Trooping.

Protocol Department feel it would be appropriate for Mr James Mitchell, the PM of St Vincent to watch the Ceremony from the Prime Minister's Stand. Something similar has been done in the past.

Mr Mitchell will be accompanied by his 'constant companion' Miss J. Cadet. (He was divorced some years ago).

Would the Prime Minister agree to Mr Mitchell watching the ceremony from his stand and what shall we do about Miss Cadet! (I could say space is limited!)

Sue

6 June 1991



SUBJECT  
CC MASTER  
OPS.



MRM  
ccfw

10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

4 January 1991

PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T12 190

Dear Prime Minister,

This letter will be presented to you by Mr Emrys Thomas Davies CMG, who has been appointed by Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom to be their High Commissioner to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

I am confident that Mr Davies is eminently fitted, both by his personal qualities and by his experience of affairs of State, for the charge with which he has been entrusted, and that his appointment will serve to maintain the relations of close friendship which so happily exist between us.

In this confidence I commend Mr Davies to you and, on behalf of the United Kingdom Government, ask you to afford him all possible help in the fulfilment of his important mission.

Yours sincerely  
John Major

The Right Honourable James F. Mitchell, M.P.

KW

PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL NO. T190/89

P03 AAU

SUBJECT CC MASTER  
OPS.

RESTRICTED

ROUTINE

ZCZC

RESTRICTED

FM FCO

TO ROUTINE BRIDGETOWN

TELNO 276

OF OCT 89

AND TO ROUTINE KINGSTOWN

ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES: TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE

1. Please pass the following message from the Prime Minister to Prime Minister James Mitchell.

Begins. I recall with pleasure our meeting in July during your visit to Britain as ~~the~~ guest of the British Government. On 27 October St Vincent and the Grenadines celebrates its tenth anniversary of independence. On this special occasion I send you and the people of St Vincent and the Grenadines my congratulations and best wishes for the future. Ends.

MAJOR

YYYY

LIMITED

WIAD

NEWS DEPT

CCD

MR BEAMISH

PS/MR SAINSBURY

135 Neil Owen

PS

WIAD

P HAGART

270 2687





✓  
abc

10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Private Secretary*

19 October 1989

ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES:  
10TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE

Thank you for your letter of 19 October.  
You may take it that the Prime Minister would  
be content for the telegram attached to your  
letter to issue.

Dominic Morris

Richard Gozney Esq  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

✓



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

19 October 1989

*Jean Dominic,*

St Vincent and the Grenadines:  
10th Anniversary of Independence

St Vincent and the Grenadines will be celebrating the 10th anniversary of their independence on 27 October. Our relations with St Vincent have been very close since Independence, and Prime Minister James Mitchell paid a successful visit to the UK in July, when he called on the Prime Minister and had talks with the Foreign Secretary. A message of congratulations from the Prime Minister would be appropriate, and greatly appreciated by Prime Minister Mitchell. I enclose a draft telegram.

*Yours ever,*

*Richard Gozney*

(R H T Gozney)  
Private Secretary

D C B Morris Esq  
10 Downing Street

*To Rg to St V & a 10th Anniv of indep  
7a for letter of 19/10.  
You may take it that the  
P.M. would be delighted  
for the telegram attached to your  
letter to arrive.*



P03 AAU

RESTRICTED

ROUTINE

ZCZC

RESTRICTED

FM FCO

TO ROUTINE BRIDGETOWN

TELNO

OF OCT 89

AND TO ROUTINE KINGSTOWN

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MAJOR

YYYY

LIMITED

WIAD

NEWS DEPT

CCD

MR BEAMISH

PS/MR SAINSBURY



WIAD

P HAGART

270 2687

RESTRICTED

ROUTINE

<<<<

PS

NNNN





File



DSG  
ceifco

10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Private Secretary*

14 August 1989

I am writing in the Prime Minister's absence abroad to acknowledge the safe receipt of Mr. Mitchell's letter of 2 August.

I shall draw this to the Prime Minister's attention as soon as she returns.

Caroline Slocock

The Private Secretary to  
The Rt. Hon. James F. Mitchell, M.P.

(sent via FCO Private Office)

PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T140C 189

SUBJECT CC MASTER  
OPS



THE PRIME MINISTER  
ST. VINCENT and the GRENADINES  
WEST INDIES

Box 4  
Cato  
Flo

2nd August, 1989

The Right Honourable  
Margaret Thatcher FRS, MP  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street,  
London SW1

Dear Prime Minister

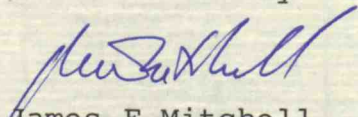
May I thank you for the excellent arrangements made for my recent visit to the United Kingdom.

It was a busy week for you and so I am most appreciative of the time you granted me in Downing Street.

I hope the Cabinet changes settle down and I look forward to seeing you in Kuala Lumpur, and probably also in Tokyo.

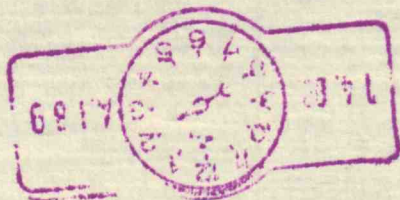
With every good wish for your continued success,

Yours sincerely

  
James F Mitchell  
PRIME MINISTER

mt





THE PRIME MINISTER  
OF WINSTON CHURCHILL  
WEST LONDON



PRIME MINISTER

MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER OF ST VINCENT AND  
THE GRENADINES

You are to see Mr James Mitchell tomorrow. He is here on an official visit. You will remember him well from Commonwealth meetings: he is generally pro-Western and free market, and a member of the Caribbean group of political parties led by Mr Seaga and Miss Charles.

Mr Mitchell's main interest is in bananas, which account for 28 per cent of St Vincent's export earnings and virtually all come here. Like other Caribbean banana producers, St Vincent is worried about the arrangements for the EC market in the run-up to 1992. We have pledged to ensure continued preferential access and will stand by that commitment. But we need all the help we can get, and that means that the Caribbean must lobby hard with other EC governments (as Miss Charles did recently).

On the aid front he will be worried about the destruction by fire of his Police Headquarters. You can say that we will help in rebuilding. You will want to discuss CHOGM, and argue against allowing South Africa to dominate. We would like to see a particular place for environmental issues. He is a firm supporter of Malcolm Fraser for Secretary-General.

You should have a word about drugs which are a major and growing problem for him. We are providing some help, although quite modest (eg a sniffer dog).

You ought to thank him for St Vincent's consistent abstention on the Falklands' issue - and see if you can repeat your success with Miss Charles and get him to vote against in future.



He is keen on political unity among the smaller states, and the Windwards at least. This would be welcome from a security point of view, but overt support from us is likely to be counter-productive. You could ask about progress with regional security co-operation.

There is a fuller note and a biography in the folder.

C.D.P.

C. D. POWELL

25 July 1989

DS2ASL





Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

24 July 1989

*Jim Charles*

Call by Prime Minister James Mitchell of  
St Vincent & The Grenadines, 26 July at 9.30 am

Mr Mitchell periodically visits Britain in a private capacity but this is his first official visit since he became Prime Minister of St Vincent & the Grenadines in July 1984. He has a 5 day programme. The Foreign Secretary will host a dinner and he will also meet Mr Patten, Mr Eggar and Baroness Trumpington.

Mr Mitchell dominates political life in St Vincent and at the general election in May 1989 his New Democratic Party (NDP) overwhelmed the opposition Labour Party, winning all fifteen seats in the House of Assembly. The NDP is an affiliate of the Caribbean Democratic Union (Chairman - Mr Seaga of Jamaica; Treasurer - Prime Minister Charles of Dominica). Mr Mitchell's Government pursues pro-Western policies and generally supports a free market economy. Our relations are traditionally very close and friendly.

Our objectives for the meeting are to:

- a) demonstrate that Britain values its relations with St Vincent and, in general, the smaller Commonwealth States of the Eastern Caribbean;
- b) show that Britain is interested in Mr Mitchell's views on regional, Commonwealth and international affairs; and
- c) encourage Mr Mitchell in his efforts towards regional co-operation and in the fight against drugs.

Economic

Bananas form 28% of St Vincent's export earnings. Virtually all are exported to the UK. The UK has a longstanding commitment to provide preferential access for St Vincent and our other traditional suppliers (Jamaica, St Lucia, Dominica and Grenada). New EC-wide arrangements will be considered in the run up to 1992. The outcome is uncertain, and is likely to be so for some time. Mr Mitchell will no doubt raise his concerns at the potential implications for St Vincent. The Prime Minister could say that:

/- We





- We are fighting to ensure continued preferential access (as the Prime Minister pledged during her visit to Jamaica in July 1987). We stand by our commitments.
- Maintenance of consistently high standard of quality by all our traditional suppliers is essential to strengthen our hand and meet UK consumers requirements.
- Caribbean governments must lobby in Brussels and with EC member states. Recent tour by Miss Charles beneficial.

Mr Mitchell may also raise the implications for our banana suppliers of the Lomé negotiations. The Prime Minister can assure him that we are working to safeguard the position of our traditional suppliers. Commonwealth banana producers should take action to ensure that their concerns are reflected in ACP positions.

#### Aid

Our aid programme to St Vincent is around £1 million a year. Mr Mitchell is likely to be concerned with the recent destruction of the Police Headquarters by fire, and ask for assistance in rebuilding the services affected (Immigration, Special Branch and Drug Control). The Prime Minister can assure Mr Mitchell that we will help.

#### Regional Security

St Vincent is a member of the Eastern Caribbean Regional Security System (RSS), which was established in 1982 due to events in Grenada. Britain (together with the US) provides training and Loan Service Personnel (LSP) to the RSS. Three Royal Naval LSP are presently attached to St Vincent's Coastguard unit. In November 1988 the RSS Council of (Prime) Ministers agreed that the emphasis of the RSS should shift from the primarily military or para-military to an increase in support for the civil power and narcotics interdiction. The Prime Minister may wish to express Britain's strong support for this new direction for the RSS as we view the threat to the region posed by drugs and drug traffickers is growing. The RSS is, at present, the only organisation capable of mounting an effective regional response to this threat.

#### Commonwealth Issues

Mr Mitchell may welcome a discussion of the CHOGM Agenda and the Prime Minister may wish to emphasise our hope that important non-political items get the full discussion they

/deserve





deserve, and the need to avoid a further divisive debate on South African sanctions. As we know Mr Mitchell to be interested in environmental issues the Prime Minister might ask how he thinks this important agenda item should be handled.

On the Secretary-Generalship, St Vincent has committed itself to supporting Fraser's candidature and is against any extension of Ramphal's term. As no consensus emerged from the recent CARICOM Heads of Government meeting the Prime Minister may wish to ask Mr Mitchell for his assessment of overall Caribbean voting intentions.

#### Drugs

Marijuana is growing in St Vincent, which is also a transit country for cocaine. Mr Mitchell's government is doing its best with limited resources to meet this serious threat to the country's stability, and economic and social development. The UK has provided support in the form of Customs rummage equipment and a drug detector dog and a Customs official will shortly be visiting to assess how we might help with customs training. We are also encouraging St Vincent to strengthen its legislation to include provisions to trace, freeze and confiscate the assets of drug traffickers. A Caribbean Ministerial Conference on Drugs is due to be held in Jamaica on 2 - 4 October. We hope St Vincent will participate.

#### Falkland Islands

The Prime Minister might register our appreciation that St Vincent has shown its support for the principle of self determination by consistently abstaining on the Argentine resolutions at the UN. The Prime Minister may recall that following a call at No 10 last year Prime Minister Charles of Dominica has promised that Dominica will in future vote against such resolutions. It is possible that Mr Mitchell can be persuaded to join Miss Charles in opposing further resolutions.

#### Political Unity

Mr Mitchell may tell the Prime Minister of his vision of Eastern Caribbean political unity. Originally this encompassed both the Windward (Dominica, Grenada, St Lucia and St Vincent) and Leeward (Antigua and St Christopher/Nevis) Islands but inter-island jealousies have now reduced this to, at most, the four Windwards. Political union would be a welcome development as it would re-enforce regional security and improve the region's trade and aid opportunities. We have provided some discreet support.

/Mr Mitchell





Mr Mitchell will be accompanied by the High Commissioner for Eastern Caribbean States, Mr Dick Gunn (a St Vincentian). Our High Commissioner in Barbados, Mr Kevin Burns, who is also accredited to St Vincent has returned to Britain for this visit and could sit in on the meeting if the Prime Minister agrees.

/ A personality note on Mr Mitchell and a copy of his  
/ programme are attached.

I am copying this letter to Trevor Woolley (Cabinet Office).

*Yours ever*

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'R N Peirce', followed by a horizontal line.

(R N Peirce)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
PS/10 Downing Street

CONFIDENTIAL

MITCHELL, RT HON JAMES FITZ-ALLEN MP

Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Foreign Affairs since July 1984.

MP for The Northern Grenadines.

Born Bequia 15 March 1931. Educated St Vincent Grammar School. Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, Trinidad and University of British Columbia.

Agricultural Research Officer, 1958-60; Ministry of Overseas Development, 1964-65; elected to Parliament, 1966; Minister of Trade, Agriculture and Grenadines Affairs, 1967-69; expelled from St Vincent Labour Party, 1972; appointed Premier and Minister of Trade, Agriculture and Grenadines Affairs in alliance government with Ebenezer Joshua, 1972-74; only member of own party to win a seat in the General Election 1974; formed New Democratic Party (NDP) 1976; Parliamentary Candidate (South Central Windward) 1979; re-elected to Parliament (The Grenadines) 1980; issued Grenadines Declaration calling for a referendum on Independence for the Grenadines 1980; Leader of the Opposition from 1982-84.

The NDP won two seats in the 1979 Election and was second in nine of the remaining eleven. His Party's win in the 1984 General Elections owed much to public disaffection with the government of the day. His NDP government was quickly accepted in the region as a moderate sensible administration. In the 1989 General Election the NDP won all fifteen seats in the House of Assembly. The Government continues to pursue pro-business and generally pro-Western policies. Mr Mitchell has grown into a politician of stature whose influence spreads beyond the boundaries of St Vincent.

A man of drive and vision. He is a leading proponent of Eastern Caribbean political unity. A pleasant man, with an engaging, open expression. Something of an opportunist.

Divorced his Canadian wife (1989). Three daughters.

CONFIDENTIAL

IC2AFZ



PRIME MINISTER  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T.126A189



THE PRIME MINISTER  
ST. VINCENT and the GRENADINES  
WEST INDIES

SUBJECT CC MASTER  
OPS

CDO  
31/78

7 July 1989

Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher  
through Resident Rep.

Dear Prime Minister

*map*  
I wish to thank you for your message of congratulations on  
our landslide victory in the recent General Elections.

Please excuse the long delay in replying.

Yours Sincerely

  
James F Mitchell  
Prime Minister and President  
New Democratic Party



ST VINCENT  
Relahan June '79.







Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

7 June 1989

*Dear Charles*

St Vincent and the Grenadines: Guest of Government Visit  
by Prime Minister James Mitchell

/ In my letter of 19 May on the result of the St Vincent general elections (copy enclosed), I said we would be looking to find mutually convenient dates for Mr Mitchell's Guest of Government visit. The Prime Minister's congratulatory message to Mr Mitchell referred to her anticipation of this visit. If the Prime Minister agrees, we would like to propose to Mr Mitchell that the visit take place during the week beginning 24 July and should include a call at No 10. We understand that this timing would suit Mr Mitchell himself.

We have a good relationship with St Vincent. Mr Mitchell dominates the political life of St Vincent and he has considerable influence in the Caribbean. His government pursues pro-business and pro-Western policies. St Vincent has consistently refused to support Argentine - inspired resolutions on the Falkland Islands at UNGA and the OAS.

*Yours ever*

*Bob Peirce*

(R N Peirce)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
10 Downing Street



me  
43  
hm

10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Private Secretary*

7 June 1989

VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF ST. VINCENT AND  
THE GRENADINES

BF U

Thank you for your letter of 7 June about the visit of Mr. Mitchell. The Prime Minister could see him at 0930 on Wednesday 26 July.

C. D. Powell

R.N. Peirce, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

ea





Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

HWX 014/1

19 May 1989

*Dear Charles*

*pa*

St Vincent and the Grenadines General Election

A general election as held in St Vincent and the Grenadines on 16 May. The New Democratic Party led by Prime Minister James Mitchell was returned to office, winning all fifteen seats in the House of Assembly.

HWX 026/1 (1)  
1988

Mr Mitchell has an outstanding invitation to visit the UK this year as a Guest of Government (your letter of 14 June 1988). With the election now over we will be looking to find mutually convenient dates when this visit might take place. Would it still be acceptable to the Prime Minister to fit in this visit in the second half of 1989?

/ I enclose a draft message of congratulations from the Prime Minister to Mr Mitchell. The draft may require slight modification if the proposed visit presents a timing problem.

*Yours ever*

*R N Peirce*

(R N Peirce)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
10 Downing Street

*pa* *pm* *n/s*



10 DOWNING STREET

Note to remain at top of file

Before any meeting with  
visitors from this Caribbean  
Island BF FCO to WR 25 November  
1981 - filed on Guyana  
January 1980: call by  
President Burnham of Guyana -  
to WR.

26 November 1981



RESTRICTED

116177  
MDLOAN 9761

*SUBJECT cc Mante, OPS*

RESTRICTED  
FM FCO  
TO PRIORITY KINGSTOWN  
TELNO 30  
OF 221418Z MAY 89  
AND TO PRIORITY BRIDGETOWN

**PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE**  
SERIAL NO *T96a/89*

1. PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER  
TO PRIME MINISTER JAMES MITCHELL:  
BEGINS. I SEND YOU MY CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR RE-ELECTION  
AND RE-APPOINTMENT AS PRIME MINISTER OF ST VINCENT AND THE  
GRENADINES. I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU WHEN YOU COME TO  
THIS COUNTRY AS OUR GUEST. WITH BEST WISHES FOR YOUR NEXT  
TERM OF OFFICE. ENDS.

HOWE

YYYY

DISTRIBUTION

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LIMITED  
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NEWS DEPT  
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PS/MR EGGAR  
PS/PUS  
MR FEARN

NNNN

PAGE 1  
RESTRICTED



cupc, Jw

10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Private Secretary*

19 May 1989

**ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES  
GENERAL ELECTION**

Thank you for your letter of 19 May enclosing a draft message of congratulations from the Prime Minister to Mr. Mitchell following the general election on 16 May. I am sure the Prime Minister would wish to send a message and would be content with the text enclosed with your letter, which may be despatched.

(C. D. POWELL)

R. N. Peirce, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

21





Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

19 May 1989

Dear Charles

St Vincent and the Grenadines General Election

A general election was held in St Vincent and the Grenadines on 16 May. The New Democratic Party led by Prime Minister James Mitchell was returned to office, winning all fifteen seats in the House of Assembly.

Mr Mitchell has an outstanding invitation to visit the UK this year as a Guest of Government (your letter of 14 June 1988). With the election now over we will be looking to find mutually convenient dates when this visit might take place. Would it still be acceptable to the Prime Minister to fit in this visit in the second half of 1989?

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Yours ever

R N Peirce

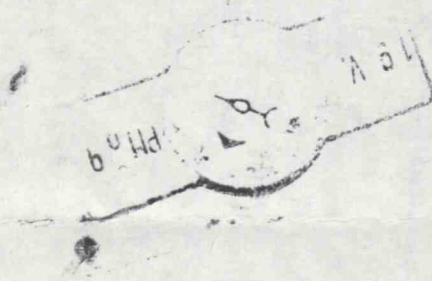
(R N Peirce)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
10 Downing Street

# OUT TELEGRAM

		Classification <b>RESTRICTED</b>	Caveat	Precedence <b>PRIORITY</b>
ZCZC	1	ZCZC		
TC	2	RESTRICTED		
CAVEAT	3			
FM	4	FM FCO		
TO	5	TO PRIORITY KINGSTOWN		
TELNO	6	TELNO		
OF	7	OF		
AND TO	8	AND TO PRIORITY BRIDGETOWN		
	9	1. Please pass the following message from the Prime Minister		
	10	to Prime Minister James Mitchell:		
	11	Begins. I send you my congratulations on your re-election		
	12	and re-appointment as Prime Minister of St Vincent and the		
	13	Grenadines. I look forward to seeing you when you come to		
	14	this country as our guest. With best wishes for your next		
	15	term of office. Ends.		
	16			
	17	HOWE		
	18			
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	20	YYYY		
	21	LIMITED		
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//	27	PS/PUS		
/	28	PS/MR FEARN		
	29	PS		
YYYY			Catchword:	
MAIN	File number	Dept <b>WIAD</b>	Drafted by (Block capitals) <b>P HAGART</b>	Telephone no <b>270 2687</b>
ADDITIONAL	Authorised for despatch by:		Initials Date/time	
NNNN	For COD use only	Comcen reference	Telegram number	Processed by







RESTRICTED



10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Private Secretary*

14 June 1988

ST. VINCENT AND GRENADINES

Thank you for your letter of 13 June proposing that the Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines should be invited to the United Kingdom as a Guest of the Government.

The Prime Minister is content for the invitation to be issued provided that it is for next year. She is not prepared to try to fit in any more foreign visitors in the latter part of this year.

(CHARLES POWELL)

R.N. Peirce, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

RESTRICTED





Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

13 June 1988

Prime Minister

Contact with this?

(It would have to be

Dear Charles early next year, in  
terms of your diary.

CDP 13/6

Yes

St Vincent and the Grenadines: Proposal to Invite  
Prime Minister James Mitchell to visit the UK  
as a Guest-of-Government

The Foreign Secretary would like Prime Minister James Mitchell of St Vincent and the Grenadines to visit the UK as a Guest-of-Government at mutually convenient dates between November 1988 and March 1989.

Mr Mitchell, a former Premier, was returned to power in July 1984. His New Democratic Party currently holds 10 of St Vincent's 13 parliamentary seats. His Government pursues generally pro-Western policies.

Mr Mitchell will be the Chairman of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) from 1 July. He is the leading campaigner for political union between member countries of the OECS and may be expected to promote the idea further during his OECS Chairmanship. We welcome the concept of OECS political union on which referenda may be held later this year in the countries concerned. It is uncertain whether this can be carried through: but, if achieved, political union would enhance regional security, improve trade and aid opportunities, and could in time involve some of our British Dependent Territories in the region.

Bilateral relations with St Vincent are generally good. They took a knock however last year when Mr Mitchell acted against the purchase by the Caribbean regional airline, LIAT, of British Aerospace's (BAe) Advanced Turbo-Prop (ATP) aircraft. The Prime Minister on that occasion sent personal messages to the Prime Ministers of LIAT shareholder countries supporting BAe but the majority vote was in favour of De Havilland of Canada. The UK firm is now preparing a formal offer to supply two ATPs on attractive leasing terms to replace some older LIAT aircraft. Mr Mitchell is reported to be sympathetic to the concept of a mixed fleet for LIAT. A Guest-of-Government visit would give BAe an opportunity to demonstrate the advantages of their aircraft.

/This

RESTRICTED



This would be Mr Mitchell's first official visit to the UK since taking office. He is, however, due to visit London privately next month to be sworn in as a Privy Councillor. We hope to arrange a meeting with Mr Eggar at that time which would afford a useful opportunity to extend a formal invitation to Mr Mitchell.

The Foreign Secretary would be grateful for the Prime Minister's agreement that Mr Mitchell should be invited to pay a Guest-of-Government visit, and that his programme should include a call on the Prime Minister.

*Yours ever*

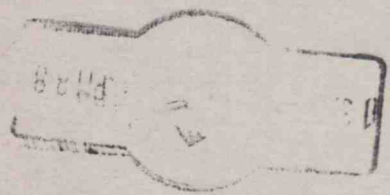
*R N Peirce*

(R N Peirce)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
10 Downing Street

RESTRICTED





PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T19/88



Subject a matter  
OPS

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

16 February 1988

Dear Prime Minister,

Thank you for your very nice letter of 8 January which has only just arrived. It was a kind thought to write and I will try to follow your advice - even though it may be a bit late in the day in my case!

With good wishes,

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

The Rt. Hon. J. F. Mitchell, M.P.

GA



PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE



SERIAL No. TA/AA/88

Subject  
CCOPS  
matter.

THE PRIME MINISTER  
ST. VINCENT and the GRENADINES  
WEST INDIES

8 January, 1988

Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher P.C  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing St  
London SW1

Dear Prime Minister,

Congratulations on your milestone of being the  
longest serving Prime Minister in Britain this  
century.

Having lived in London for five (5) years I can  
appreciate the significance of your accomplishment.

With the stresses of our office I have come to  
recognise the vital importance of pacing oneself  
and with humility, urge this experience on you.

I wish you continued robust health and every  
success in the future.

Yours sincerely

Rt Hon J F Mitchell  
PRIME MINISTER



**PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T140A/84**

MASTER  
OPS  
TOP COPY

(14)

Subject: St Vincent: Independence: June 79

UNCLASSIFIED

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OO ST VINCENT

GRS 75

UNCLASSIFIED

FM FCO 311727Z JUL 84

TO IMMEDIATE ST VINCENT

TELEGRAM NUMBER 27 OF 31 JULY

AND TO BRIDGETOWN

Hwx 030/1		
RECEIVED IN REGISTRY		
02 AUG 1984		
DESK OFFICER	REGISTRY	
INDEX	✓	WJH

1. PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER  
TO MR MITCHELL.

BEGINS 'WARM CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR APPOINTMENT AS PRIME  
MINISTER OF ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES. I LOOK FORWARD  
TO CLOSE AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH YOUR GOVERNMENT. I  
SEND YOU MY BEST WISHES AS YOU BEGIN YOUR TERM OF OFFICE.'  
ENDS.

HOWE

NNNN

DISTRIBUTION

MINIMAL

WIAD

PS

PS/LADY YOUNG

PS/MR WHITNEY

SIR W HARDING

MR DAVID THOMAS





10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

31 July, 1984.

St. Vincent General Election

Thank you for your letter of 30 July enclosing a draft message of congratulations from the Prime Minister to Mr. James Mitchell on his appointment as Prime Minister of St. Vincent.

The Prime Minister agrees the proposed message. I should be grateful if you could arrange for its prompt despatch.

Charles Powell

C.R. Budd, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

30 July 1984

Prime Minister

Agree message?

CDD

Dear Charles,

St Vincent General Election

The New Democratic Party led by Mr James Mitchell has defeated Mr Cato's St Vincent Labour Party in the general election held on 25 July. It is normal practice for the Prime Minister to send a message of congratulations to her opposite number in a Commonwealth country on appointment. I attach a draft message, to be sent by telegram to the British High Commission Representative in St Vincent for onward transmission to Mr Mitchell.

Mr Mitchell's victory ends 15 years in office for the outgoing Cato Government. Mr Mitchell's party is in the centre of the political spectrum and looks to the Western democracies for friendship and aid. It has traditionally been strong in the Grenadines and relatively weak in St Vincent. The election has helped to demonstrate the strength of democratic institutions in the Eastern Caribbean since it has been possible for an opposition party to defeat a party long established in government in a fair fight. Mr Mitchell intends to foster closer collaboration between the government, commerce and the unions and to privatise government investment in the hotel industry and shipping.

Yours ever,

Colin Budd

(C R Budd)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
10 Downing Street



File No. ....  
Department .....  
Drafted by .....  
(Block Capitals) .....  
Tel. Extn. ....

OUTWARD  
  
TELEGRAM

Security Classification UNCLASSIFIED
Precedence IMMEDIATE
DESKBY .....Z

FOR COMMS. DEPT. USE	Despatched (Date) ..... (Time) .....Z	POSTBY .....Z
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PREAMBLE

(Time of Origin).....Z(G.M.T.) (Restrictive Prefix).....  
(Security Class.)... UNCLASSIFIED (Caveat/  
Privacy marking).....  
(Codeword)..... (Deskby).....Z

TO IMMEDIATE ST VINCENT  
(precedence) (post) Tel. No. ....of.....

AND TO (precedence/post) IMMEDIATE BRIDGETOWN

AND TO SAVING.....  
INFO.....

INFO SAVING.....

Distribution:—

Minimal

WIAD  
PS  
PS/Lady Young  
PS/Mr Whitney  
Sir W Harding  
Mr David Thomas

Copies to:—

[TEXT]

1. Please pass the following message from the Prime Minister to Mr Mitchell.

BEGINS: "Warm congratulations on your appointment as Prime Minister of St Vincent and the Grenadines. I look forward to close and friendly relations with your Government. I send you my best wishes as you begin your term of office." ENDS.

*mt*



St Vincent

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

25 October 1979

fs  
Rus

Dear Michael,

Saint Vincent: Commonwealth Membership

The Commonwealth Secretary General has informed us that Commonwealth Governments have agreed to St Vincent becoming a special member of the Commonwealth on independence (27 October). It will be known as Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. The Commonwealth Secretariat have issued a press release.

Saint Vincent will become the 42nd member of the Commonwealth, and the third special member. Special members receive all benefits of Commonwealth membership except that they do not attend Commonwealth Heads of Government meetings and pay only a nominal annual contribution (or none at all).

Yours ever

Roderic Lyne

(R M J Lyne)  
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq  
10 Downing Street



925 OCT 11 1979  
BOSTON  
MA 02111

Subject



cc: FCO

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

23 October 1979

PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T 126/79T.

Dear Prime Minister,

On behalf of the British Government I am happy to send you and your Government and all the people of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines my best wishes as you become an independent sovereign nation and a member of the Commonwealth.

My colleagues and I look forward to a continuation of the close links and warm relationship which exists between our two countries.

Yours sincerely  
Margaret Thatcher

The Hon. R. Milton Cato.





Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

22 October 1979

*Dear Michael,*

St Vincent Independence: Ministerial Messages

It is customary for the Prime Minister to send a message of congratulation to the Prime Minister of any British territory which becomes independent. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines move to independence on 27 October. I enclose a draft letter for the Prime Minister's approval and signature.

It is proposed that the messages be delivered by Mr Ridley, who will represent the British Government at the independence celebrations in Saint Vincent. He will also deliver a message from Lord Carrington. The Duke of Gloucester will deliver a message from The Queen. It would be helpful if the signed top copy of the Prime Minister's letter could reach us on 24 October, in time for Mr Ridley's departure.

*yours ever*  
*Roderic Lyne*

(R M J Lyne)  
Private Secretary

M O' D B Alexander Esq  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON

Register  
No.

DRAFT

Type 1 +

## SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

Top Secret,  
Secret.  
Confidential.  
Restricted.  
Unclassified.

To:—

Prime Minister, Mr Milton Cato

From

Prime Minister

Telephone No. Ext.

Department

## PRIVACY MARKING

..... In Confidence

On behalf of the British Government I am happy to send you and your Government and all the people of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines my best wishes as you become an independent sovereign nation and a member of the Commonwealth.

My colleagues and I look forward to a continuation of the close links and warm relationship which exists between our two countries.

Type for  
Signature  
22/10  
H. S. Day's bot.





file VS  
St Vincent

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

10 October 1979

St. Vincent: Independence

The Prime Minister has seen your letter to Michael Alexander of 9 October. She has asked Mr. Paul Channon to act as her representative at the Service of Thanksgiving.

I am copying this letter and yours of 9 October to Geoffrey Green (Mr. Channon's Office) and Jim Buckley (Lord President's Office).

**N. J. SANDERS**

R.M.J. Lyne, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

VS



10 DOWNING STREET

PRIME MINISTER

To see the attached letter.

Would you be content to be  
represented by Mr Paul Channon-  
who knows St Vincent well and  
spent his summer holiday there  
this year?

Yes no

MS





Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

9 October 1979

*Dear Michael,*

St Vincent: Independence

A Service of Thanksgiving to mark the independence of St Vincent is to be held at Westminster Abbey on Monday 29 October at 11 am. The Queen will be represented; it is not yet known by whom. It is customary on such occasions for the Prime Minister to be represented by a Cabinet Minister and for the Secretary of State to be represented by a Foreign and Commonwealth Office Minister. On this occasion Lord Carrington has agreed that Lord Trefgarne should attend the Service on his behalf. I should be grateful if you would let me know whom the Prime Minister wishes to attend as her representative.

*Yours ever*

*Roderic Lyne*

(R M J Lyne)  
Private Secretary

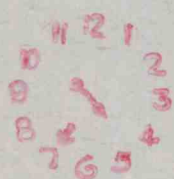
M O'D B Alexander Esq  
10 Downing Street

29 OCT 1979

29 OCT 1979



29 OCT 1979



29 OCT 1979







10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

30 July 1979

VLB  
CC HMT  
DOE  
PCO  
CDLO  
CO  
Speaker's Office  
Clerk of the Commons  
st ✓

Dear Sir,

Independence Gifts to St Vincent

Thank you for your letter of 27 July about the proposed presentations by the Government and the House of Commons to St. Vincent on independence.

The Prime Minister has seen your letter and agrees that the gifts for which the Financial Secretary to the Treasury has already approved expenditure should be presented as proposed.

I am sending copies of this letter to Martin Hall (H.M. Treasury), David Edmonds (Department of the Environment), Colin Egerton (Privy Council Office), John Stevens (Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster's Office), Martin Vile (Cabinet Office) and Sir Richard Barlas and Sir Noel Short (House of Commons).

Yours are,  
J. S. Wall.

J. S. Wall, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

VLB



*Prime Minister*

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

*Agree?*

*Yes*  
*27/7*

27 July 1979

*Dear Bryan*

*Yes*

Independence Gifts to St Vincent

St Vincent will attain independence on 27 October 1979 and is expected to apply to become a full member of the Commonwealth. It is customary for these occasions to be marked by the presentation of gifts from the Government and from the House of Commons.

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury has approved expenditure of up to £4,500 for the Government gift and up to £2,000 for the House of Commons gift to the House of Assembly. We shall be consulting the Government of St Vincent about the form these gifts might take.

We should be grateful if you would seek the Prime Minister's approval for the proposed presentations.

I am sending copies of this letter to Martin Hall (Treasury), David Edmonds (Department of the Environment), Colin Egerton (Privy Council Office), John Stevens (PS/Leader of the House), Martin Vile (Cabinet Office) and to Sir Richard Barlas and Sir Noel Short (House of Commons).

*Yours ever,*  
*J.S. Wall*

(J. S. Wall)  
Private Secretary

Bryan G Cartledge Esq  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON



27 JUL 1979



*St. Vincent*

Cabinet Office  
70 Whitehall London SW1  
Telephone 01-233 8550 5826

Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster

22 June 1979

*Mr. Sanders*  
*na*

*Bu*  
*257*  
*h*

*Dear George*

ST VINCENT: INDEPENDENCE (OD(79) 9)

The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster was glad to have an opportunity to see the Foreign Secretary's memorandum OD(79) 9 and to note the proposal for a short debate on an affirmative resolution before the long recess.

The Parliamentary timetable in the House of Commons will be under great pressure during the time up to the long recess, and it will be difficult to find time for a debate if it has to take place before 10 o'clock. He hopes, however, that a debate lasting for 1½ hours after 10 o'clock will be considered acceptable, and on this basis there should be no serious problem about fitting it in. He assumes that Mr Ridley will make the detailed arrangements with the Chief Whip once the proposals in your paper have been agreed.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Private Secretaries to the Prime Minister and other members of OD Committee and to Murdo MacLean and Martin Vile.

*Yours sincerely,*

*Charlotte Egerton*

C M EGERTON

George Walden Esq.,  
Private Secretary to  
Secretary of State  
Foreign & Commonwealth Office



25 JUN 1979



St Vincent

CONFIDENTIAL

SDN

RUE



cc

HO  
Lord Chanc.  
HM  
MOD  
Lord Pres.  
Lord Privy Seal  
Trade  
C.O.

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

21 June 1979

St. Vincent: Independence

The Prime Minister has seen OD(79)9. Subject to the views of colleagues, she agrees with the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary's proposal set out in the final paragraph of that paper.

I am copying this letter for information to the Private Secretaries to members of OD.

N. J. SANDERS

George Walden, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

CONFIDENTIAL

889



**CONFIDENTIAL**

THIS DOCUMENT IS THE PROPERTY OF HER BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT

OD (79) 9

June 1979

COPY NO 2

CABINET

DEFENCE AND OVERSEA POLICY COMMITTEE

ST VINCENT: INDEPENDENCE

Memorandum by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

*Prime Minister*  
*Agree, subject to*  
*colleagues' views?*  
*Yes*  
*20/6*

1. The St Vincent Government have asked us to grant independence with effect from 27 October 1979. Under the West Indies Act 1967, an Associated State can itself terminate the status of Association after obtaining the approval of two-thirds of the votes in a popular referendum; or it can ask the British Government to terminate association by Order in Council. Grenada in 1974, Dominica in 1978 and St Lucia this year became independent by the second method. The policy of successive British Governments has been to move an Order in Council when satisfied that the majority of the people of the State want independence and that the new constitution is a democratic one.

2. We wish to bring Associated Statehood to an end as soon as possible. They already have full internal self-government. We are responsible only for external affairs and defence: this amounts to responsibility without power and on occasion has caused us international embarrassment.

3. The independent Commonwealth Caribbean Governments support independence for the remaining Associated States (St Vincent, St Kitts-Nevis, Anguilla and Antigua). In the light of the current instability in the region, the States wish to set up their own regional security arrangements, with help from us and to develop their political and economic cooperation. The Associated States can only play a full part in this process when independent. Also, after independence, they are able to look for aid elsewhere as well as from us.

4. The St Vincent Government, who won 10 of the 13 seats and over 69% of the popular vote at the 1974 election on a platform which included independence, have a clear mandate. The opposition parties also endorsed the principle of independence.

5. The St Vincent Government consulted the people on the constitutional

**CONFIDENTIAL**

/issues



CONFIDENTIAL

issues before last September's Constitutional Conference. The Conference Report and the draft constitution were then published in St Vincent. The House of Assembly approved the draft constitution in February. There has been little public interest in independence and no evidence of popular opposition to it.

6. The two opposition parties, however, are now opposing independence and trying to force an election (due anyway by March 1980). They boycotted the Constitutional Conference, made no constructive contribution to the House of Assembly debate in February, but subsequently suggested amendments to the draft constitution. These were at first rejected by the St Vincent Government. The Minister of State, Nicholas Ridley, who visited St Vincent last month asked the St Vincent Government to reconsider this since it would be preferable presentationally for the constitution to reflect the views of all the Parties. After further consideration the St Vincent Government agreed to the three Opposition amendments which Mr Ridley considered most important.

7. Although the recent volcanic eruption on St Vincent has delayed independence, the St Vincent Government are confident they will be ready for it in October. The alleged economic damage inflicted by the volcano has caused Mr Cato to seek to renegotiate the level of British aid after independence, but we have not conceded any increase: this problem should not be insurmountable.

8. I believe that we should agree to the St Vincent Government's request for independence. Although the opposition parties may continue to oppose it, they will probably confine themselves to peaceful action. The St Vincent Government anyway have an efficient police force which should be able to cope with any disorder. I think the Opposition will support us in Parliament although we may face criticism from individual MP's. I therefore seek my colleagues' approval that I should inform the St Vincent Government and Opposition that the British Government are willing to recommend to Parliament that St Vincent's status of Association be terminated by Order in Council. This will mean that parliamentary time for a short debate on an affirmative resolution in both Houses will have to be found before the recess. Unless I hear to the contrary by 26 June I will assume that my colleagues agree.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
20 June 1979

C



Grey Scale #13



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Centimetres

Colour Chart #13

Blue

Cyan

Green

Yellow

