Fellow Antiguans and Barbudans,

As Antigua and Barbuda prepares to hold a general election which is constitutionally due in March 2009 it is an opportune time for reflection, evaluation and goal setting. Regardless of one’s personal political philosophy, leaning or affiliation electing a government is serious business. It is ultra serious because government’s policies, decisions and programs affect the lives of citizens. A sitting Government’s policies, decisions and programs can bring about good or hurt the country’s economy, stability or future development and growth prospects.

Speaking of reflection, during the last four years and ten months I have seen much improvement in how my fellow nationals get involved with issues related to the responsibility and accountability of government. There is now a true sense of citizen’s awareness and interest in the role of government. This is refreshing since in years gone by there was this general feeling that government in Antigua and Barbuda was mainly concerned about winning elections. Today more nationals, even those living overseas are getting involved and demanding transparency, integrity and accountability in government. This is great for our democracy and augurs well for the future of “government by the people and for the people”.

A government’s performance can be judged using a myriad of well established analytical instruments and focusing on any number of areas. However, Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer in his annotations on Sunday January 4, 2009 highlighted two critical principles that I believe are central to assessing a government’s performance. Firstly, he talked about the importance of leadership as a standard for assessing success or failure in government. Leadership is about designing a vision and telling followers why you are doing what you are doing. That is presenting and breaking-down the vision into intelligible pieces so citizens can decide whether or not a government’s policies, decisions and programs align with the stated vision. According to Peter Drucker, “Management is doing things right; leadership is doing the right things.”

Secondly Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer talked about trust as being the other principle that one should use to judge the success or failure of a government. Leadership is about designing a vision and telling followers why you are doing what you are doing. That is presenting and breaking-down the vision into intelligible pieces so citizens can decide whether or not a government’s policies, decisions and programs align with the stated vision. According to Peter Drucker, “Management is doing things right; leadership is doing the right things.”

Antigua and Barbuda does not exist in a vacuum. We are and will be affected by global crises such as the current economic meltdown, and now more than ever, those two evaluative standards put forward by the prime minister (i.e. leadership and trust) are highly consequential at this challenging juncture in our nation’s history. Electing a government is serious business because the policies, decisions and programs of those who govern can advance goodness or inflict harm.

McChesney G. Emanuel
Honorary Consul General

During his two day engagement at the United Nations, Prime Minister Spencer in his capacity as Chairman of CARICOM led discussions with United States Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on issues ranging from deportation, crime and security and trade and investment. Prime Minister Spencer also spoke during a roundtable discussion on Education and Health where he highlighted Antigua and Barbuda’s achievements in bridging the digital divide and tackling the problem of HIV/AIDS towards achieving its obligations as prescribed within the Millennium Development Goals. Prime Minister Spencer was a guest of Secretary General of the United Nations Mr. Ban Ki Moon during a special working dinner to discuss climate change and food security.

The country’s leader engagement at the United Nations also included chairing the 32nd G77 and China Ministerial Meeting on Friday and hosting a reception and awards ceremony where three of world leaders were honored for their work in establishing closer south-south cooperation. In addition to his speaking engagements, Prime Minister Spencer held talks with a number of leaders from Jordan, the United Kingdom, Nigeria, Austria, Turkey and Argentina and established diplomatic relations with Finland.

Prime Minister the Honorable Baldwin Spencer also received the United Nations 2008 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Achievement Award during his visit, becoming the first Head of State or Government to receive this prestigious award. “In all modesty I stand here today very much honored to have been chosen as the 2008 recipient of MDGs Achievement Award and feel very proud to contribute in the course of cooperation and development of the South,” said the Prime Minister, who received the award in recognition to his commitment and contributions to the promotion and strengthening of partnerships between the UN and the private sector to achieve the MDGs.

The MDGs represent a global partnership that has grown from the commitments and targets established at the world summits of the 1990s. Responding to the world’s main development challenges and to the calls of civil society, the MDGs promote poverty reduction, education, maternal health, gender equality, and aim at combating child mortality, AIDS and other diseases. Set for the year 2015, the MDGs are an agreed set of goals that can be achieved if all actors work together and do their part. Poor countries have pledged to govern better, and invest in their people through health care and education. Rich countries have pledged to support them, through aid, debt relief, and fairer trade.

In accepting the award from the current President of UN General Assembly His Excellency Miguel d’Escoto Brockmann, Prime Minister Spencer further observed that the MDGs represent a true compact between all the nations and other stakeholders including civil society and the private sector. “The MDGs are our hopes to spur development by improving the social and economic conditions of more than a billion people in the developing world living in extreme poverty, hunger, lack of water and shelter. It is meaningful to me that the contributions I have tried to make over the course of my career and my leadership as Chair of the Group of 77 have been seen as valuable and thus I accept this award on behalf of all the people of the South.”

Prime Minister Spencer is the third recipient of this prestigious award. He joins two distinguished recipients of this award: H.E. Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa, President of the Sixty-first Session of the United Nations General Assembly, and H.E. Srgjan Kerim, President of the Sixty-second Session of the United Nations General Assembly, both of whom were also committed to promoting the set of global anti-poverty targets. Antigua and Barbuda’s Delegation to the United Nations 63rd Session also included Ambassadors Deborah-Mae Lovell and Anthony Liverpool.
IN THE SPOTLIGHT

HON. WINSTON BALDWIN SPENCER – 60 YEARS AND COUNTING...

by Ivor B. Ford

A cooling cucumber in a hot spicy oriental dish; a soldier of unyielding determination and perseverance in the heat of a fierce encounter on the battle field; a great human specimen of indomitable will, a wise and shrewd leader of visionary fortitude and just temperament and, finally, complementary to all these enviable attributes and many more: these are the strands which are inextricably entwined in the Divinely-created tapestry that is Winston Baldwin Spencer, who was gifted to this world 60 years ago.

As his inherited and given names all foretold, this native-born Antiguan and Barbudan was born to Joyce Martin and Frederick Spencer on 8th October 1948 - five weeks before the birth of the present heir to the British Throne, Prince Charles. His name Winston Spencer was the given names of the great wartime British Prime Minister, Winston Spencer Churchill. His second and more familiar name, Baldwin was the name of one of Antigua and Barbuda's most beloved governors, Governor Baldwin who was a champion of the grassroots people and a steel band enthusiast. Governor Baldwin served as Governor of Antigua and Barbuda twice.

As young Baldwin found his feet in an environment of strict discipline, courteousness and great respect for authority, he cultivated profound devotion to his mother and other siblings. At school, he was serious and most determined to do well in all his lessons. Despite his somewhat quiet demeanor, his days as a student at the Princess Margaret Secondary School, the first public school to offer free secondary education in the country, he held his own equally well in academic achievements and sporting and cultural activities.

It is revealed that as early as age 10, Baldwin's acumen as a leader was quite evident. Information is also gleaned that it was this leadership potential that impressed the late V.C. Bird to the point that he, Baldwin, was prophetically earmarked by the late Father of the Nation to lead this country one day.

As he was obviously ordained by divine providence to lead the people and country he so loved, Winston Baldwin Spencer prepared himself for his future by reading widely and mixing with all strata of society to fully understand and appreciate the people he was destined to lead. He also pursued further studies at St. Francis Xavier University in Canada, Ruskin College at Oxford in England and the University of Oslo, Norway where he received Diplomas in Social Leadership Studies, Labor Studies and Labor Management Systems, respectively.

Quite unobtrusive in nature, Baldwin was always a punctual and regular attendant at meetings of practically every organ of the trade union movement and other social organizations. His involvement with the Trade Union Movement and his steadfastness in defending the rights of the working-class people and indeed the dispossessed is well known and documented. Yet, in spite his many activities, he skillfully and meticulously carved out his time table which very often baffled his friends and other relatives. Seemingly straight jacketed by such discipline in respect of his personal schedule, he was never too busy to listen or share in a problem of any of his peers. This caring and understanding characteristic attribute also engaged his attention even with persons his senior in age and experience. Complementary to these excellent qualities of his, Baldwin possessed a photographic and electronic memory which boarders on the miraculous. He is a stickler for the minutest of detail which serves him in his present vocation.

Baldwin Spencer’s elevation to the pinnacle of power in Antigua and Barbuda, was never fueled by personal ambition or selfishness. His prime goal in life has been - and still is - to make the lives of his sibling patriots more tolerable educationally, economically and to become masters of their own destiny. Though very often misunderstood by many, Baldwin’s decisions are made after long and careful weighing in the scale of fairness, justice and personal conviction of doing right to the greater majority.

So as Winston Baldwin Spencer celebrates his 60th Birthday - the Diamond Jubilee- we join in the celebration of the life of our Prime Minister and sibling patriot with sincere appreciation and profound gratitude. To God be the glory, great things He has done.

Congratulations Honorable Prime Minister. May God continue to nourish you with health and a productive life as you continue to serve your sibling patriots of the land you love so dearly.
CARIBBEAN SPLASHDOWN & HEALTH FAIR 2008

Held at Marcus Garvey Park - Sunday, August 31
14 WAYS TO AVOID PASSPORT PROCESSING DELAYS

1. Pay the required processing fees.

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2. Make SEPARATE payments in money order or bank draft ONLY. Personal checks are NOT accepted. Money orders and bank drafts should be made payable to the “Government of Antigua and Barbuda.”

3. Obtain an apostille or other certifying document for ALL marriage licenses, divorce decrees, birth and death records and other such documents originating outside of Antigua and Barbuda.

4. Provide any additional supporting documents as requested by the Passport Office in Antigua which may include any of the following:
   - Deed Pole (change of name document for persons whose name(s) have changed since the last passport was issued)
   - Registration Certificate (for naturalized citizens of Antigua and Barbuda)
   - Sworn affidavit (in cases where the last passport issued is lost)
   - Adoption Certificate (for persons where guardianship has changed)

5. Submit ONLY originals of birth certificates, baptismal certificates and any other such documents.

6. Section 9 of the application form must be completed by a notary public with the notary’s data NOT the applicant’s data.

7. One (1) passport photograph must be certified by the same notary that certified the application form. The notary’s embossing seal SHOULD NOT be used on submitted photos.

8. Passport photos SHOULD meet the following criteria:
   - Three (3) IDENTICAL photographs in color taken within the last six months in normal street attire
   - 2x2 inches in size
   - Printed on high quality paper using high resolution
   - Have a plain white background
   - Show you looking directly into the camera
   - Full face frontal view with no shadow behind the head
   - Show you with no hair across your eyes
   - Show both edges of the face clearly
   - Hat or head covering that obscures the hairline SHOULD NOT be worn
   - Both earlobes SHOULD be clearly visible
   - Remove prescription eyeglasses if glare is apparent when photographed
9. Submit your completed passport application form and ALL supporting documents to the Consulate General of Antigua and Barbuda, 305 East 47th Street, Suite 6A, New York, NY 10017. Please note that applications started at either the Miami Consulate, Embassy in Washington DC or the Passport Office in Antigua must be completed with that office.

10. Your LAST ISSUED passport should be presented for cancellation.

11. Sign and date the application form in the required area (Section 11).

12. Sign **WITHIN THE CENTER OF THE BOX** provided on the application form. Signature should be contained within the required area for proper scanning.

13. Parental consent (Section 10) should be completed by either one or both parents for applicants 18 and under.

14. Read through application guidelines and/or checklist carefully.

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**Help our office reach more nationals and friends!**

*Please provide us with the contact information for at least two (2) **OTHER** persons.*

1. Name: ...........................................................................................................................
   (First Name)            (Last Name)

   Address: ..........................................................................................................................

   City: .......................... State: ................................... Zip: ........................................

   Home Phone: ......................... Business Phone: ..............................................

   Email Address: .......................................................... ............................................

2. Name: ..........................................................................................................................
   (First Name)            (Last Name)

   Address: ..........................................................................................................................

   City: .......................... State: ................................... Zip: ........................................

   Home Phone: ......................... Business Phone: ..............................................

   Email Address: .......................................................... ............................................

Kindly return this form to 305 East 47th Street, Suite 6A, New York, NY 10017 or FAX it to 646-215-6009.

**WE APPRECIATE YOUR ASSISTANCE!!!**
LETTER TO PRESIDENT ELECT BARACK OBAMA

THE PRIME MINISTER
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

November 5, 2008

His Excellency, Barack Obama
President Elect of the United States of America

Excellency,

Antigua and Barbuda joins the American people, and the peoples of all nations, in celebrating your historic election as President of the United States of America.

As Chairman of the Group 77 and China, and as Chairman of the Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community, I am conscious of the promise of your presidency in shaping a new paradigm in America’s relationship with the other nations of the world.

Your election will not only transform America, it can transform the world.

Your message of change will ignite hope and action in people of many countries who might still be passive in the face of inadequacies and injustice.

Your manifest devotion to family will strengthen families around the planet.

On behalf of the people and the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, I take this opportunity to extend our condolences on the passing of your beloved grandmother.

In lasting tribute to your election, I shall take immediate measures for Antigua and Barbuda’s highest mountain peak to be dedicated in your honour and renamed “Mount Obama”.

The people of Antigua and Barbuda and the rest of the Caribbean keenly anticipate your visit to our region for the Summit of the Americas, in the early months of your presidency.

With assurances of my highest esteem,

W. Baldwin Spencer
Fellow nationals and friends,

On November 1, our beloved country celebrated its 27th Anniversary of national Independence. On the strength of God's grace our native land proved resilient and faithful to her sons and daughters during the long and difficult periods of slavery and colonial rule and it is my firm belief that just as our country prevailed over those struggles of the past, Antigua and Barbuda will fully overcome present and future challenges. Our founding fathers and mothers built and left us a legacy of an enduring character of patriotism and determination. It is this heritage of an abiding spirit of strength in character and determination that has brought our nation through devastating natural disasters and economic hardships. These discernible attributes that have become an integral part of our nation’s DNA equips us to confront today’s challenges and conquer those in the ensuring years ahead.

This year’s independence theme, One Family: Striving For Peace and Harmony emblemsizes objectives that are essential in advancing the process of bonding our people together as we continue to develop as a nation state. These objectives are critical ingredients that will ensure that our citizens treasure and remain true to those traditional attributes of high-spirited patriotism and unshakable determination. As citizens living within the Diaspora, let us demonstrate our steadfastness in character and determined patriotism through action that promotes harmony and peace among us.

In 1858 and with reassuring resolve President Lincoln told the American people, “a house divided against itself cannot stand.” My fellow nationals, so it is with our nation. When we segment ourselves our nation loses strength, when we are united, our nation is resilient. A great part of our nation’s strength springs from inherited values that each citizen shares. These values serve to bind us together as one family and as part of a national ecology where harmony and peace can thrive.

The message of this year’s independence theme was echoed throughout our independence celebrations across the North-east USA. Some of the highlights were captured in this special issue of our newsletter. It is my hope that it will help to kindle an enthusiastic desire to unite in harmony as one national family to ensure a peaceful and prosperous Antigua and Barbuda.

McChesney G. Emanuel
Honorary Consul General
North-East USA Independence Celebrations

NEW YORK

Over 1,200 nationals and friends celebrated the 27th anniversary of Antigua and Barbuda’s independence in New York at the annual thanksgiving service held on Sunday October 26, 2008 at the North Bronx Seventh Day Adventist (SDA) Church where Rev. Dr. Horace Russell is the pastor. Consul General McChesney Emanuel warmly greeted those gathered and encouraged nationals to weave this year’s independence theme, “One family: Striving for Peace and Harmony” into a national vision for Antigua and Barbuda. He called on nationals and friends to generously assist those affected by Hurricane Omar. CG Emanuel also called for unity among nationals and a North America diaspora summit to discuss issues of common interest.

In a pre-taped address shown during the service, Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer highlighted accomplishments of the UPP government since assuming office in March 2004. The Prime Minister said he is confident that under his government the nation will overcome its current challenges and ensure prosperity in these uncertain economic times. He also recognized the valuable contribution of Antiguans and Barbudans living abroad through the regular remittances they send to their families.

The sermon was delivered by The Rev. Dr. Kortright Davis, a proud Antiguan and Barbudan son, and rector of the Church of the Holy Comforter in Washington DC. Canon Davis is a distinguished professor at Howard University School of Divinity and author of several books including, “Serving With Power: Reviving the Spirit of Christian Ministry” and “Emancipation Still Comin’: Explorations in Caribbean Emancipatory Theology. In his presentation Dr. Davis called for an affirmation of and appreciation for the customs and mores which made us uniquely Antiguan and Barbudan. He challenged those in attendance to actively welcome change as an opportunity for meaningful transformation. He also encouraged nationals to employ those things which build character and make for peace and progress, in essence, nation building – truth, honor, integrity… excellence (Philippians 4:8).

The service also saw the participation of fifteen (15) other members of clergy and uplifting performances from Stephanie Johnson of North Bronx SDA congregation, Antigua and Barbuda Cultural Society Chorale, St. Mary’s Reformed Church Steel Orchestra, Tehillah Zamar, Temples of Praise and Arianne Whyte. Charlesworth Gordon, former director and founding member of the Antigua and Barbuda Cultural Society Chorale was honored for his years of service to the choir and the Antigua and Barbuda.
community at large. In addition, Jessica Joseph, a 2nd generation Antiguan and Barbudan and first year student at Johnson & Wales University, North Carolina was recognized as the second recipient of the Antigua and Barbuda Shining Gems Book Award. Jessica is a member of the United in Harmony Steel Orchestra and hopes to use her Culinary Arts and Food Management training to promote Antigua and Barbuda.

Following the service, nationals had a chance to savor the cuisine and enjoy the elaborate food displays of two Antiguan and Barbudan caterers - Melvin Myers of Success Catering and Blondelle Baltimore of Wadadli Style Bakery & Restaurant.

**MASSACHUSETTS**

In a further effort to connect with nationals across the northeastern United States the Consulate’s staff travelled to Massachusetts on November 2nd for the hosting of its first Independence Thanksgiving Service at Parkway United Methodist Church in Milton Massachusetts. This Thanksgiving service showcased the talents of 1st and 2nd generation nationals who have made the New England area their home.

The service began with a heartfelt welcome from host pastor, Rev. Maria Coleman. Consul General McChesney Emanuel brought greetings on behalf of the government and people of Antigua and Barbuda noting once more the importance of retaining vital connections to family and friends at home. He noted that it is these solid links that help us to withstand the challenges of life abroad and do much to assist in times of prosperity and hardship.

Rev. Zennetta Armstrong of Church of the Holy Spirit reinforced this sentiment in her sermon, honoring the paradise that Antigua and Barbuda continues to be for so many that return home and for those persons who visit our shores. Rev. Armstrong further stated that many nationals have emigrated to places all over the world and have made significant contribution, adding to value to the twin island state. She encouraged nationals to build upon these achievements so that nationals at home, especially our youths, can be motivated to work towards strong goals.

Prayers of intercessions were offered by other participating members of the clergy and proud nationals- Rev. Dr. Ives Roberts, Rev. Marcella Charles and Rev. Horace Morson. Organist, Stanley Francis and panist, Darrell Williams delighted worshippers with their musical contributions. There was also a moment of remembrance of seven (7) deceased members of the Antigua and Barbuda Association of Boston. After the service nationals and friends feasted on local dishes prepared by members of the Antigua and Barbuda Association of Boston under the leadership of Dion Irish.
On Sunday November 9th the Consulate General hosted another historic Independence Thanksgiving Service at Arch Street United Methodist Church in Philadelphia Pennsylvania.  The Consulate staff was accompanied by Rev. Bellgrave Pelle and Rev. Roy Charity, native sons of Antigua and Barbuda and members of the clergy fraternity in New York.

In his message to nationals Consul General McChesney Emanuel heralded Philadelphia as the city of brotherly love, a love that is felt by those Antiguans and Barbudans who have been assisted through the generous support of the local disaster relief organization. It is that vision of leadership Emanuel noted that promotes civic pride and calls people to actively participate in our nation’s progress.

As part of the evening’s program Loretta Ramsey, President of The Antigua and Barbuda Disaster and Relief Fund Inc., recognized senior Antiguans and Barbudans for their contributions to the Antigua and Barbuda community within the Philadelphia area over the years- Mother Christobell Hillhouse, Mr. Raymond H. Abel, Mr. Oriell Weeks and Mr. Vincent Brown. Antigua’s own Carolyn Providence was moved by the 2008 Independence theme to pen a poem which she delivered with surety and grace. Cedar Park Junior Choir and a recitation of the final verse of Antigua Land by Dyamune McCoy and Saniyyah Coley emphasized the vibrant second generation.

The sermon at this service was delivered by Rev. Joseph Watkins, noted MSNBC political analyst, commentator, former US Senate staffer, White House aide, businessman and pastor of the oldest African American Lutheran Church in Philadelphia- Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church. As a proud 2nd generation Antiguan and Barbudan, born in Queens New York, Rev. Watkins took a personalized approach in his sermon as he reflected on how his early life’s experiences, personal choices, academic pursuits and hard work have contributed to the person he has become today. He also likened Antigua and Barbuda with all its wonderful features (beaches, fine cuisine etc.) to the “city that is set on a hill” which cannot be hid (Matthew 5:16). Watkins charged the members of the congregation to do their part to let the light of Antigua and Barbuda shine before men so others may see her good works. He also encouraged nationals to be salt of the earth, preserving the core values nurtured by our parents and grandparents and doing our part to make Antigua and Barbuda a haven of peace. After a heart-warming service nationals and friends enjoyed the local delicacies provided by Antigua’s son- Lethsome Stevens of Delaware.
INDEPENDENCE GALA 2008 PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS
INDEPENDENCE GALA 2008 PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS
One Family Striving for Peace and Harmony
By: Carolyn Providence

When I speak of a precious gem
In the heart of the Caribbean
In the middle of the Caribbean Sea
You are envied
When I say that you are 108 square miles
With 365 white sandy beaches
You are not believed
When I speak of a little bit of paradise
And the proud realities of my country
The spirit of people
Manifested in their pride and hospitality
Each endeavoring
All achieving
When I speak of Antigua and Barbuda
I speak of one family striving for peace and harmony

I speak of one family whose diversity is in its beauty
I speak of one family, strong, bold and carefree
I speak of one family who fought and struggled for their independence
And I speak of one family who will and forever strive for harmony

As I stand here
I stand remembering
The scars
The beatings
The hangings
And the history of a people so great
The history of a people who came out of slavery
I stand remembering my ancestors and angels
I stand here remembering the fights that it took for family to get here
I stand here remembering the backs that I rode upon
And I stand here remembering that what it took was family in harmony

I am so proud
I am so very proud
Of our history and legacy
That when I speak of my Antigua and Barbuda
I speak of a country whose love made me

So when I speak of a precious gem
In the heart of the Caribbean
In the middle of the Caribbean Sea
You are envied
When I say that you are 108 square miles
With 365 white sandy beaches
You are not believed
When I speak of a little bit of paradise
And the proud realities of my country
The spirit of people
Manifested in their pride and hospitality
Each endeavoring,
All achieving
When I speak of Antigua and Barbuda
I speak of one family striving for peace and harmony.
Holidays Observed

December 10 Heroes Day
December 25 Christmas Day
December 26 Boxing Day

Special Issue