

CONFERENCE

ON

*QUALITY OF LIFE IN ST. KITTS-NEVIS
AFTER 25 YEARS OF SELF GOVERNMENT*

JUNE 12- 14, 1992

REPORT

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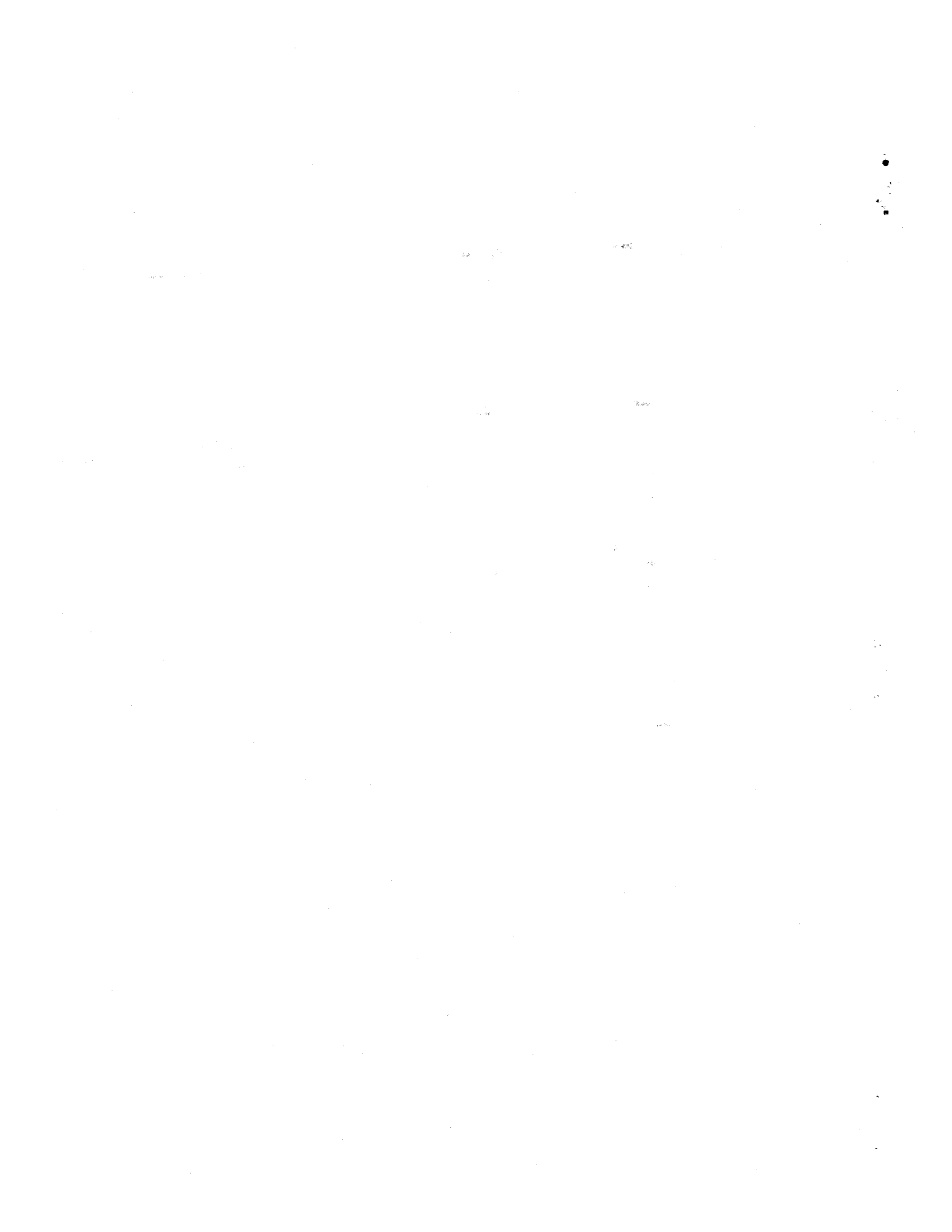
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INTRODUCTION

The Conference was organised by the following clubs and organisations to mark the 25th anniversary of Associated Statehood which brought internal self-government to St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla on 27th February 1967:

Rotary Club of St. Kitts
St. Kitts (Basseterre) Lions Club
St. Kitts Christian Council
St. Kitts Jaycees
St. Kitts-Nevis Chamber of Industry & Commerce
Business & Professional Womens Club of St. Kitts
St. Christopher Heritage Society

The object of the Conference was to promote responsible public discussion on a non partisan basis on matters of national importance.

The Conference was officially opened with a dinner at Jack Tarr Village, Frigate Bay, St. Kitts on Friday 12th June 1992. The guest speaker at the opening dinner was Sir Fred Phillips, C.V.O, Q.C the first Governor of St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla. A special and excellent presentation of dance in honour of Sir Fred was made at this dinner by Okolo Tegremantine Dance Theatre.

Conference sessions were held at Fort Thomas Hotel, Basseterre, St. Kitts, on Saturday 13th June 1992 and Sunday 14th June 1992.

There were 90 registered participants comprising members of the above organisations, civil servants, businessmen, professionals, trade unionists, politicians, teachers, students and other members of the St. Kitts community.

The first day's programme related to Economic Issues as they affect the Quality of Life and the second day's programme related to Social Issues.

The report consists of a summary of and extracts from the presentations made by the panelists in order of presentation and the comments and concerns expressed by participants on the topics presented in the light of the Conference theme.

The organisers of the Conference wish to thank the panelists, chairmen, moderators, rapporteurs and participants of the Conference and all those many individuals, firms and companies who contributed to the success of the Conference.

It is hoped that this Conference was the first of many such forums for the promotion of the object expressed above. The extent to which the term Quality of Life has been used since the Conference in the community generally and particularly in the political press may be coincidental but there can be no doubt that the Conference has stimulated thought and discussion on the subject.

THE CONFERENCE THEME

The unanimous consensus of the Conference was that discussion on this theme was long overdue and particularly timely - not only as the Conference marked the attainment of 25 years of self Government by St. Kitts and Nevis but also because of the global importance being attached to the Quality of Life as evidenced by the Rio Earth Summit.

The theme was considered timely also because of the widely accepted necessity for St. Kitts and Nevis as it expands its tourist industry to consider the impact both positive and negative which a full fledged tourist industry can have on a small community such as ours. It was generally accepted as essential that we take stock of the quality of life in our nation before rather than after the expansion so that we may avoid the irreversible problems which the industry has created for some of our Caribbean neighbours.

It was not expected by the organisers that the Conference would in the short time permitted be able to outline definitively a set of objectives for our country or make formal recommendations thereon but the Conference clearly focussed on the problems and concerns facing us.

The Conference generally echoed the view expressed by Sir Fred Phillips in his opening address that there is no doubt that the quality of life in St. Kitts and Nevis has greatly improved from 1966.

It was also generally accepted that the theme is an elusive one and in many ways subjective but that it was definitely not synonymous with standard of living although the standard of living was a relevant factor in determining the quality of life. Many examples were cited of cities or countries with high standards of living but with poor quality of life. New York City and St. Maarten were prime examples.

It was felt that the improved standard of living in the period under review had contributed to an improvement in the quality of life but it was stressed that the continued improvement in the standard of living would not necessarily lead in the future to an improved quality of life.

The point was also firmly made that the circumstances of the less fortunate in our community, of whom there are far too many, dictate that the quality of their life could only be measured in terms of their standard of living.

The view found wide favour that our nation lacks a projection as to its future and that we do not as a people appear certain as to where we are going and where we want to go. It is essential that we plan our objectives as a nation and then decide what measures we need to employ to achieve those objectives.

The definition of the term quality of life proffered by Sir Probyn Inniss in his presentation was generally adopted.

"The level of comfort and happiness that people would like to reach....a chance at fulfilling one's possibilities and one's abilities to grow."

The time constraints also prevented full and ample discussion on every topic. This is reflected in the limited number of concerns and observations on some topics.

The Conference was also successful and stimulating in bringing together decision makers and other influential members of our community who should but do not normally, because of the political polarisation of our country, associate to express and discuss their views on any topic. The fact that the Conference was able to stimulate such discussion on so important a theme was a major achievement.

The overwhelming feeling was that St. Kitts and Nevis offer a good quality of life but that substantial adjustments must be made to maintain and improve that quality of life.

Charles L A Wilkin
Conference Convenor

SUMMARY OF OPENING ADDRESS BY SIR FRED PHILLIPS, C.V.O., Q.C.

Sir Fred began by commenting that as Administrator of the Colony of Saint Christopher Nevis Anguilla from 1st January, 1966 to 27th February, 1967 and then as first Governor of The Associated State of Saint Christopher Nevis Anguilla and later in his professional and private capacity he had had the unique advantage of seeing this country grow up from infancy to adolescence in constitutional terms. He reminded the audience that the Statehood Constitution was to all intents and purposes an independence constitution because the Government internally had all the powers of an independent country save for defence and external affairs. He commended the many organisations who had come together to make this Conference possible and said pointedly -

"for never in the history of this country has it been more imperative than the present that all sections of the community come together to air their views openly and frankly on matters affecting your lives on a non-partisan basis. If I may say it with great respect, for too long have the populace looked at every development in a polarised manner - with a party political bias, forgetting that there are times when in the national interest you should join hands and forget the party to which you belong. It may not be easy but I suggest that it is worth a try."

He suggested that political polarisation must inevitably affect the quality of life in the Federation and not for the better. He pleaded for tolerance and discipline on a wider scale in people's dealings one with another. No community, he said, can thrive on intolerance and tension which themselves bring despair and disillusionment.

There is no doubt, he thought, that the quality of life in St. Kitts-Nevis was greatly improved from 1966 when he came here and it is vital that every effort be made to continue the process in the years ahead. There is considerable room for improvement but when compared to a country like the Commonwealth of Soviet Republics the quality of life here is infinitively superior. He recounted a recent visit to Russia and said that he came away feeling strongly that it is the management of resources and the way a country involved its people in what it is doing for their lives which are of paramount importance. He then quoted Aristotle

"If liberty and quality are chiefly to be found in democracy they will be best attained when all persons alike share in the government to the utmost".

He commended the Government and people of this Federation for having weathered the storms they have encountered as well as they have and he referred to the Anguilla crisis in the late 60's which he felt was the most trying period of his entire life. It is a tribute to the quality of life of the people of Anguilla that they now harbour no further hate against St. Kitts. He noted that many Kittitians were now working in Anguilla.

He turned to his impressions of the many positive sides to the quality of life which have developed since 1966 and cited:

1. The improvements to Brimstone Hill. He noted the work done by G H King, ISO and by that other outstanding citizen Lloyd Matheson, CBE. He sees the Brimstone Hill Fortress National Park as a symbol of determination and dedication which will enure to the benefit and pleasure of generations yet unborn and provide our children with a rich heritage of their culture.
2. The lovely Alexander Hamilton museum in Nevis which is also inspiring and will continue to inspire our children and their children.
3. Frigate Bay Development.
4. South-East Peninsula road.
5. Bird Rock development.
6. The Challenge Programme of the University of the West Indies Department of Continuing Studies. He paid special tribute to Timothy Harris and Ruth Slack two students of that programme who have secured First Class Honours Degrees and commended the dedicated tutors, the Government for their support of the scheme, and the Resident Tutor for his organising skills.
7. The enactment of The National Conservation and Environment Protection Act 1987 and the establishment of a Conservation Commission.
8. The enactment of the Nevis Land Development Authority and the zoning plan organised by Nevis.
9. Improvements in the fields of health education, family planning and primary health care. He noted that he had declared open the Joseph N. France General Hospital in 1967 and suggested that the groups which organised this Conference should develop a 'Friends of the Hospital' section to assist in the equipment of the hospital.

10. The construction by Rotary Club of a psychiatric unit at the hospital.
11. The eye testing programme of the Lions Club.
12. The building boom between 1988 and 1990 which had helped reduce unemployment and led to the importation of labour from St. Vincent and Guyana.
13. The construction of the Four Seasons Hotel in Nevis.
14. The impressive development of infrastructure - roads, water, electricity, airports and telephone services. He commented that our telephone service is the envy of many distinguished visitors from many parts of the world and he commended Cable & Wireless and Skantel for their contribution in this area.
15. The improvement in the availability of financial services with the establishment of the National Bank in 1972 and the creation of the Development Bank and the Foundation for National Development. These institutions have contributed to an increase in the number of young entrepreneurs but there are still not enough young farmers and other tourism oriented local businesses.
16. The greater civic responsibility shown by businesses over the past 10-15 years and increased civic pride generally.
17. The enactment of the Litter Act. He commented that St. Kitts is still one of the cleanest of the islands in the region and by and large our physical environment is good.

He then turned to the 'down side' which includes the increasing and disquieting incidence of drug abuse and associated crimes including armed robberies and occasional gang shoot-outs. He warned that this is an evil which the entire community must close ranks to fight and strike down now before it takes root.

He warned against being self satisfied in the improvements to which he had referred. He suggested the need for greater activity in the arts such as an active theatre group, folk singing and dance, the development of carvers and painters and the encouragement and promotion of traditional music and Christmas sports.

He quoted from St. Paul's in his Epistle to the Romans -

"Let us not therefore judge one another anymore
but judge this rather, than no man put a stumbling
block or an occasion to fall in his brother's way";

"Let us therefore follow after the things which
make for peace and things wherewith one may
edify another".

and ended -

"It is when we reach this stage that we will have optimised to its
fullest the quality of life which, with God's blessing, I hope
this country will achieve some day".

**PRESENTATION ON AGRICULTURE by Dr Keith Archibald, Director of
Agriculture of St. Kitts and Nevis**

The assessment of change in the quality of life in relation to the Agriculture Sector has to be largely conceptualised in respect of 3 important criteria -

1. Improvement in food production and supply especially as it relates to the nutrition of the people and food security.
2. Improvement or change in the income principally of the farmers as the primary producers and all other groups associated with the industry.
3. Availability of greater opportunities or scope for development that lead to greater satisfaction from involvement in the activities of the sector.

In historical perspective he noted the major changes since 1967 in St. Kitts from monocrop agriculture totally dominated by sugar and the effects of the Government acquisition of that industry and in Nevis with the decline in food crop production and the Sea Island Cotton Industry.

He described the efforts being made by Government in St. Kitts to secure and rehabilitate the sugar industry and the land use and zoning plan prepared for Nevis by the Nevis Island Administration with the main object of providing land for food production.

He spoke of the diversification thrust directed by the Government with the emphasis on Agriculture, Tourism and Light Industry aimed at diversifying the whole economy with strong linkages between the 3 sectors. Within the Agriculture Sector this thrust was aimed at securing the Sugar Industry and the promotion of food production by small farmers to meet the domestic demand through import substitution and in the medium to long term to promote exports. The latter thrust was intended to take small farmers out of the realm of being merely subsistence farmers into being fully commercialised primary producers and ultimately into developing organisations of their own, as part of the private sector, for handling, storage, grading, packaging and marketing of agricultural produce. This programme was even more important now because of the likely effect of the single European market on sugar and banana production of the OECS countries.

The opportunity presents itself for young people to become involved in agricultural production and the prospect of making a good living from farming was better now with improved technology and other inputs. The availability of better crop forecasting and marketing information have resulted in farmers achieving better price margins (conservatively EC\$5,000-\$10,000 per acre). Self-sufficiency had already been achieved in the production of cabbage, carrots, tomatoes, onions, white potatoes and water melon for 3-5 months of the year and with improved on-farm storage and irrigation (especially drip irrigation) it should be possible to achieve year round self-sufficiency and some export potential particularly of white potatoes, onions and carrots.

Improved credit facilities, fiscal incentives and security of tenure (by way of 35 year leases) for small farmers, expanded plant propagation facilities and improved planting materials make the prospects promising in the agricultural sector but there still needs to be a considerable programme for improved infrastructure, water and utilities on farms throughout the country.

The Fisheries industry has also benefited from improved credit facilities and other incentives.

Prospects for the further development of this sector are directly linked to the expansion of the tourism sector and the development of an agro-processing capacity. The development of a solid local dairy processing industry and the re-development of the livestock industry are also essential to a balanced Agriculture Sector.

CONCERNS AND OBSERVATIONS OF PARTICIPANTS

Not enough emphasis on agriculture in curriculum of schools.

Export marketing of food production inadequate. Food is being spoilt and farmers discouraged.

Processing plants should be established to make use of fruit which goes to waste on the ground in great quantities e.g. guavas, mangoes.

Insufficient local vegetable production. Too much vegetables and fruit imported.

Children should be encouraged to consume local rather than imported fruit for their nutritional benefit and the country's economic benefit.

Reallocation of land essential for future development of the industry.

Need also for some large farms given the economies of scale and the growing tourist market.

Not enough young people willing to engage in farming as a way of life.

Quality of life of small farmers has improved but their efforts have not been maximised.

Foreign media and advertising has influenced food tastes of local consumers away from traditional, local foods. There is need to counter this influence by public education.

Justifiable concern about the increased and uncontrolled use of certain dangerous chemicals.

Insufficient coordination between farmers and Government as to supply and demand and crop forecasting.

Central Marketing Corporation was established as a marketing organisation for local food production. It has evolved into a supermarket. If it returned to its original objective many of the concerns expressed above could be alleviated.

There is inadequate public information regarding the supply and demand of products.

Essential for Government policy to re-build the livestock sector after the ravages of disease have decimated it.

Also need for a new/different type of livestock owner.

Proper system of land management required to provide land for this sub-sector.

Pesticides Board established by law does not function.

No proper regulations for the disposal of chemicals particularly from animal dipping vats.

More public discussion required on subject of land use and allocation.

Concern expressed regarding uncontrolled vending of fresh food products on the streets of Basseterre. An area should be designated for farmer's market.

Insufficient attention paid to storage of fresh food production.

Greater effort required for year round production of vegetables.

Agricultural planners should consider greater use of hydroponics.

PRESENTATION ON TOURISM by Mrs Hilary Wattley, Senior Assistant
Secretary in the Ministry of Labour & Tourism.

Hotel Plant

Brief history of industry in period under review:

1968 - 148 rooms in St. Kitts and Nevis
1975 - 392
1984 - 596
1992 - 1200

St Kitts and Nevis offer a very diversified hotel plant. Need is recognised to encourage:-

1. Small indigenous hotels with local ownership
2. Remodelling of Great Houses to offer moderately priced accommodation with a Caribbean flavour
3. Some large hotel chains to attract more airlines and boost the marketing of the islands.

Employment and Training

Generation of employment is most important effect of Tourism:

2000 persons directly employed in the industry
1200 persons indirectly employed

There is a lack of local middle and top management personnel.

Accelerated training essential in this area. Training also required in following areas:-

1. As part of school curriculum - efforts to this end already underway
2. On the job training by private sector
3. Local group training
4. Overseas training by way of scholarships available through funding agencies.

5. Training in communication skills for persons in ancillary services - Immigration and Customs, Shop Assistants, Taxi Drivers, Restaurant and Bar Attendants.

Transportation This is major constraint - improvements planned.

1. New airport terminal at Golden Rock, St. Kitts
2. New terminal and runway extension at Newcastle, Nevis.

Cruise Ship Industry - fastest growing segment of our tourism. In 1970's cruise ship calls as low as 5 annually. Between 1978 and 1991 number of passengers arriving by cruise ship increased from 9,421 to 52,834.

To meet and expand this market following measures being undertaken:

1. Study to improve port and berthing facilities
2. Attending Cruise Seminars and Promotions to meet cruise personnel
3. Private sector promotions directed at cruise companies
4. Attractions such as welcoming live music and cultural presentations
5. Expanded duty free shopping facilities e.g. Pelican Mall
6. New pier for small cruise ships
7. OECS common head tax.

Statistics show that visits by cruise ships often lead passengers to return for longer stay over visits.

Marketing

1980 Representative placed in Eastern Caribbean Tourist Association offices in New York.

Engagement of a P.R. firm and a Marketing Agency in U.S.A.

1983 New York office opened

1985 Toronto office opened

1990 London office opened

1991 Chicago office opened

St. Kitts and Nevis now featured in 27 U S A Tour Operator Programmes 47 in the UK and Europe and 15 in Canada.

Expanded efforts at summer tourism from Europe and Mid Western U S A. Arrivals from Europe show 77% increase in 1st quarter 1992 over same period in 1991.

Joint marketing being undertaken with our neighbours through Caribbean Tourism Organisation.

Funds for market research and other exercises being provided by EEC and other donor agencies.

Efforts also geared to attract the more affluent leisure traveller because of limited land space to accommodate the mass market.

Linkages with Tourist Industry

Development of linkages between Tourism and other productive and service sections important economic thrust:-

1. Agricultural production linked to tourism.
2. Production of by-products from sugar - candies, syrup, biscuits, rum.
3. Use of solar water heaters for hotels and homes.
4. Recycling plant should be established.
5. Scope also for furniture manufacturing for hotels and restaurants.
6. Textile factory
7. Craft industry
8. Use of natural resources such as hot springs in Nevis.

Conservation, Preservation and the Environment

Key factor in development of tourist industry.

1. Beautification of towns and villages
2. Preservation of forests
3. Proper garbage disposal
4. Minimising pollution of the sea and reef picking
5. Restricting sand removal from beaches.

ECO and Health Tourism expanding and this market can be tapped.

Competition - increasing within Caribbean and from non traditional destinations such as Orlando, Cancun, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Aruba and Far East.

Combined effort of public and private sectors necessary to offer our best.

CONCERNS AND OBSERVATIONS OF PARTICIPANTS

More emphasis necessary on training at all levels of industry which depends for success on the quality of service.

Cruise ships anchor in sea grassbeds, a practice which contributes to destruction of young fish and eggs.

Careful and urgent study required on the impact generally of tourism on the environment.

This exercise required in a sustained manner in advance of future development of industry not before.

Concern expressed that tourists being allowed to bathe in rivers which are source of water for domestic consumption.

Our eco-system very fragile. Need for careful management of the industry with the environment firmly in mind.

Cultural penetration caused by tourism must be watched and countered.

Insufficient promotion and incentives for intra Caribbean tourism.

Influence of the industry on the drug trade must be guarded against.

Insufficient marketing of the country to tourists who visit on cruise ships.

More careful study and optimal use of the linkages between the industry and other industries.

More effective marketing of the destination required. Efforts to date haphazard. Overall marketing strategy should be prepared and published.

Marketing of tourism insufficiently funded by Government.

Huckster trade in downtown Basseterre threatening to spoil the attractiveness of the commercial centre. Problem must be addressed as it will not just go away as some hope. Downtown market would solve the problem.

Such market should consist of small houses constructed in local architectural style to give village atmosphere and maintain architectural integrity of Basseterre.

Nationals resident in other countries and engaged in tourist industry should be encouraged to return to contribute their skills and experience locally.

Tourism must become an integral part of the education system at all levels.

Nationally owned media should play more active role in educating the public and highlighting the industry.

St Kitts-Nevis one of the most expensive destinations in the region which itself is one of the most expensive in the world. Careful attention will have to be paid to the cost of our product in the light of growing competition throughout the world.

Dangerous attitude prevalent in all sectors that because of its many attractions St. Kitts must inevitably attract greater investment in the industry. This is a false premise.

Investment dependant in foremost extent on profits which the investment can derive. We must actively pursue such investment not sit back and wait for it.

Insufficient attention paid to the costs of the industry locally and the effect on it of direct and indirect taxation.

We are not examining in a thorough and honest manner the standard of service we provide to tourists. We expect to get by on the fact that our people are friendly. There are friendly people everywhere in the world of tourism.

Government should use its influence within LIAT to ensure more effective co-ordination of its services with BWIA services and if possible a merger of those airlines.

**PRESENTATION ON TRADE & INDUSTRY by Michael L. King, O.B.E., Chairman
TDC Group of Companies**

Historical Perspective - In 1967 St. Kitts was a classical plantation society. Entire economy was centred on sugar. Five to six families controlled 90% of the economy. Middle class was small. The largest businesses were all linked to sugar industry.

Diversification began with the establishment of Curtis Mathes TV assembly plant and the garment factory at Pond Pasture. Light industry developed into a significant contributor in the 1970's with the laying out of Pond Industrial Estate.

Tourism began in earnest in the late 1960's and was accelerated by the acquisition and development of Frigate Bay.

The establishment of the National Bank and TDC as public companies signalled a new era of public participation in the trading and banking sectors. The Bank offered loans to a much wider sector of the community increasing consumer spending and the development of housing.

The development of the tourist industry in the 1980's led to the development of shopping facilities in traditional architectural style which helped to make downtown Basseterre one of the finest historical and attractive shopping areas in the Caribbean.

the above and other changes have led to enormous strides forward in the trading and commercial sectors of the economy. The abolition of personal income tax has also gone a long way to stimulate economic activity.

Limitations - some of our limitations have a positive impact on the quality of life:

1. Small home market deprives us of many of our talented young people who go abroad for employment and training in specialist fields. This however has helped to reduce unemployment.
2. Our sometimes burdensome bureaucracy has led to slower development than some of our neighbours with high standards of living. Positive effect from this has been our ability to maintain orderly development and superior infrastructure.
3. Caricom tends through protectionism to institutionalise inefficiency low productivity and poor quality (especially where tariff barriers are high) but well managed industries have survived and flourished.

Recommendations

To consolidate our gains over the past 25 years and to face the challenges of the future we need to recognise our limitations and concentrate our efforts in those areas which can enhance our quality of life.

1. Tourism offers the greatest number and variety of opportunities for employment, selfemployment, high wages, spin-off industries and can support a relatively high standard of living. Our success will depend on our ability to deliver quality service at competitive prices.
2. In light industry we must continue to train our work force to increase productivity and make greater use of technology and mechanisation.
3. If Caricom is to continue to encourage trade and industrial development we must decide on and implement only those measures we can live with in the long term. Uncertainty is the greatest deterrent to orderly business development.
4. To maintain and enhance our heritage we should all encourage the work of the Heritage Society and the Beautiful Basseterre Committee and Government should impose a strict building code for Downtown Basseterre.
5. We must maintain and enhance our infrastructure to keep up with development while at the same time paying our way as we go by balancing our budgets.
6. For the commercial sector to continue to grow the tax code should be modified:
 - (a) to remove the restriction to 50% of profit for the deduction of capital and losses carried forward.
 - (b) to remove the restriction to 5% of receivables of bad debts which can be written off in any year.
 - (c) to remove the limitation to \$50,000 of salaries which can be expensed for tax purposes. This is a major deterrent to the attraction of competent professionals and discriminates against tax paying companies.

These tax measures are unnecessarily burdensome and increase the effective tax rate on companies to well above the statutory rate of 40 per cent.

- (d) Capital allowances should be provided for commercial investments particularly in tourism related facilities.

**PRESENTATION ON MANUFACTURING by John Mallalieu, Chairman
Electrofab (St. Kitts) Limited**

Light Manufacturing began in mid 60's with Curtis Mathes TV Assembly Plant. Motivating factor in factory re-location then was and still is the reduction of the cost of doing business.

Minimum wage in USA in 1967 was US\$1.54 per hour. Curtis Mathes target rate for production line workers was US\$0.14 per hour. Today the Far East is the dominant area in the manufacture of consumer electronic products, an opportunity stupidly missed by the Caribbean Islands which are natural commercial neighbours to the USA.

Position in St. Kitts today

1. Manufacturing provides approximately 1500 jobs or about 4.2% of the population or about 12% of the labour force.
2. Manufacturing meets a payroll of approx. EC\$16,000,000 per year.
3. It pays approx \$2,560,000 in payroll taxes per year
4. Its employees are responsible for about \$7,000,000 annually in customs revenue.
5. It provides St. Kitts with approx. US\$12,500,000 annually in foreign exchange earnings.

Measurement of St. Kitts productivity - unit of measurement being standard hours which is the accepted international basis of competition for labour

1. In 1992 minimum wage in USA is US\$4.65 per hour or at 85% productivity - US\$5.47 per standard hour.
2. St. Kitts ships about 2,380,000 standard hours per year and the raw cost of doing this is US\$5.25 per hour.

But we are not competing with the USA.

This rate makes St. Kitts uncompetitive with Central America, The Dominican Republic and China. At this rate St. Kitts is no longer a low cost location for manufacturing on a job shop basis. And it must be noted that the figure of US\$5.25 per hour is cost only and does not include the cost of re-investment or profit.

The saving grace is that most of the plants here are subsidiaries of US companies and appear able to live with that cost.

Particularly fine jobs are being done by Lutron, Pico, Sensor Scientific and Harrowe. Lutron is today the best example of off-shore investment in St. Kitts.

Because of prevailing labour rates locally owned Companies such as Electrofab can only compete in high volume, high profit products.

Job Cost Comparison with Tourism

The cost of providing a single job in the light manufacturing sector is much lower than tourism.

The total investment in manufacturing in St. Kitts including buildings is approx. US\$7,000,000 which makes the cost of providing each job in the industry approx. US\$5000.

The Four Seasons Hotel cost US\$75,000,000 or US\$125,000 for each of the 600 jobs it provides.

CONCERNS AND OBSERVATIONS OF PARTICIPANTS

TRADE COMMERCE AND MANUFACTURING

St Kitts-Nevis no longer a low wage country and therefore productivity must be increased if investment is to be attracted.

Importation of labour is likely to be a continuing necessity.

Necessary at this time to examine extent to which labour will have to be imported and to assess the social impact and prepare measures to alleviate any problems which may arise.

Noted that generally the spirit of common enterprise growing among young people.

Necessary for entrepreneurial spirit to extend into new and innovative areas of business, not just the traditional areas.

Most small traders concentrating on sale of clothes, shoes and other female wear. Many other untapped areas of trade.

Concern expressed on ability of Caricom producers to compete in new international trading environment which stresses liberalisation of trade.

**PRESENTATION ON BANKING AND FINANCE by Wendell Lawrence
Financial Secretary**

The Caribbean is at crossroads. There has been considerable economic progress in the past 25 years but the future cannot be taken for granted. Changes in the international environment require careful reflection.

St. Kitts-Nevis has done well over the past 25 years. The viability of small states used to be in question but it is interesting to note how well smaller states have been doing.

The Banking and Financial sector in St. Kitts-Nevis has grown at a considerable pace.

1978 Total bank deposits EC\$ 94.2 million

1991 Total bank deposits EC\$417.6 million

1978 Loans and advances EC\$ 53.6 million

1991 Loans and advances EC\$368.6 million

There are 6 major banking operations in so small a market. National Bank is an outstanding example. Development Bank has loans outstanding in excess of EC\$30 million. The non banking financial sector has done well e.g. credit unions.

The real economy has grown at the same time as the financial sector but now at crossroads because:

1. Decline in financial resources
2. Recession in developed countries
3. Needs of Eastern Europe
4. New tourist destinations, particularly Cuba
5. Beyond year 2000 we are not likely to receive preferential tariff rates on sugar.

We must therefore be able to compete and be creative in our approaches and to work harder. There is however no need to despair as the success of the past should be a positive lesson.

Considerations for development of our financial base

1. We must compete in the global market place for money. Competitiveness is the order of the day.
2. Increased domestic savings essential. You cannot force savings by regulation. Incentives and motivation to save necessary.
3. Inhibiting factors -
 - (a) lack of investment outlets and instruments. Money kept idle for 'rainy day' and not therefore available for development. Capital markets essential and we must co-operate with other OECS countries because of the need for a critical mass.
 - (b) absence of venture capital.
 - (c) insufficient long term mortgage financing - a secondary mortgage facility will partly address this need. Position under review by Central Bank.
4. The regulatory function of the Central Bank must be strengthened to ensure monetary stability and to prevent capital flight.
5. Creativity (financial engineering) and capital market development are our future.

CONCERNS AND OBSERVATIONS OF PARTICIPANTS

BANKING AND FINANCE

We are not a people who save with national development in mind.

Opportunities and instruments of investment necessary to motivate savings.

We are very much a consumer society and the implications of this on savings is a complex topic which requires more time and (perhaps a separate forum) for exploration.

The enormous contribution of National Bank to the local banking industry and towards the improvement of the Quality of Life unanimously agreed.

The performance of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank also praised. The Bank is viewed as having contributed significantly to the improvement of the Quality of Life.

Concern was expressed as to the extent of the capital investment planned by the Central Bank in its new headquarters. It was felt that this might impair the good image established.

PRESENTATION ON HEALTH by Dr Mervyn Laws, General Practitioner

Statistical review of progress using the following indicators of health care status (1) Immunisation programmes (2) Infant Mortality Rate (3) Life Expectancy.

1. Immunisation Programme

1967 - immunisation began at health centres against small pox, diphtheria, whooping cough and polio.

1969 - tubercular testing and vaccination added.

1984 - vaccination against measles introduced

Monitoring of coverage began in 1981.

1981 - 61-71 per cent of children under 1 year covered for diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, polio and measles.

1983 - 90-93 per cent

1984 - 97 per cent - highest in Caribbean

1986 - 100 per cent.

1989-1992 - 100 per cent coverage maintained.

Immunisation programme now at its peak and is best in english speaking Caribbean.

2. Infant Mortality Rate - prime indicator of health care status. Regarded as measure of social affluence.

Defined as no. of death of infants under 1 year old per 1000 live births in a given year.

1971 - 65, highest in english speaking Caribbean.

1972 - 69

1980 - 53

1985 - 27

1987 - 22

1990 - 19.7

With improved primary health care and hospital care we should achieve the rate of less than 15 achieved by developed countries.

3. Life Expectancy - Constant in past decade

Females - 70 years

Males - 65-66 years

Major causes of death are diseases of the heart and cardio vascular system secondary to high blood pressure. This fact demands healthier lifestyles - (a) better eating habits, (b) more exercise (c) decrease in use of tobacco and alcohol.

CONCERNS AND OBSERVATIONS OF PARTICIPANTS

HEALTH

Perception that quality of health care has not improved to a satisfactory level could be a result of inadequate information which is reaching the public.

Major factor impacting negatively on the quality of health is a number of 'nutritional type disorders' resulting from poor eating habits influenced by North American Lifestyle received from Cable TV etc.

Widespread lack of confidence in the hospital facilities demonstrated by increasing number of persons going overseas for medical attention.

Concern raised that there is a lack of independence in the management of health care facilities.

Insufficient attention being paid to mental health.

Public campaign should be mounted to discourage use of tobacco and alcohol.

Present prevalence of mosquitoes of serious concern.

Use and possible harmful effect of Conaree as a waste disposal site should be studied.

Question raised whether lack of a sewer system in Basseterre is a potential health problem.

Greater public awareness required of health concerns relating to solid and liquid waste disposal.

Administration and cost of health care of vital concern. Role of Social Security in providing health benefits should be considered. Instead of the system paying a pension at the end of one's working life it should be concerned with ensuring that one gets to that age.

National decision required as to the specific objectives of the Social Security system.

There should be a Veterinary Public Health Unit within the Ministry of Health. Certain diseases shared between animals and man and in more developed countries herds are routinely tested for these diseases. Only Jack Tarr insists on this type of testing at the Bayfords Farm of product sold to that hotel.

There is a need for updating of legislation with respect to meat inspection. This is now done by unqualified Inspectors of Health but should be done by the Chief Veterinary Officer.

Public should be educated on the possibility of contracting leptospirosis from dogs. Incidence of that disease among dogs is high.

Although satisfactory free medical attention available for pregnant women, in cases with complications no free referral to specialists and often as a result such patients do not return to specialists after paying the first fee.

It was felt that more access could be made to free prescription drugs at health centres, though there could be implemented a grading system for payments according to patients' income levels.

It was emphasised that there should be greater focus on preventative medicine as a supplement to curative medicine.

Qualification for free medication should depend on need rather than on the doctor who prescribes it. Free medication available only on prescriptions from district doctors.

PRESENTATION ON MORAL VALUES AND ATTITUDES by Sir Probyn Inniss
Barrister-at-Law

"I want to begin by commending Charles Wilkin and the other individuals and organisations responsible for convening this Conference on the Quality of Life after 25 years of full internal self-government.

I believe there is a consensus that the term Quality of Life has a wider connotation than Standard of Living. The term Standard of Living usually refers to the economic level at which an individual, family or nation lives.

Quality of Life is a wider and vaguer concept; it is more subjective than objective. It involves some intangibles which depend on the goals, ambitions and expectations which people and the Society set for themselves. Quality of Life therefore has to do with the WELFARE of the individual and the society.

Whereas there is no agreement as to what items should be included in any index to determine the Quality of Life, I would suggest that the following need to be considered:-

- (i) Condition of work
- (ii) the amount and Quality of Leisure
- (iii) Distribution of Income
- (iv) Civil rights and Freedoms
- (v) Equal Access to opportunities - eg. Health facilities, Land, Jobs, Scholarships, Government Contracts
- (vi) Inter-personal relationships - Based on Trust - Co-operation, Tolerance
- (vii) Is there perception of Justice and Fairness?
- (viii) Is the existing Quality of Life sustainable?
- (ix) What are the Justifiable FEARS, ANXIETIES re Crime, Disease, etc.
- (x) Need to strike a balance sheet between Negatives & Positives eg. Cable T.V.

- (xi) Sense of belonging - the extent to which the citizen feels that he or she matters in the overall scheme of things.
- (xii) Our sensitivity towards the needs of the less fortunate, the Old, the Handicapped and how we provide for them.

In a word, whatever makes one feel GOOD & PROUD of St. Kitts is a PLUS for the Quality of Life: The Reverse is also true. Negatives detract from the Quality of Life."

Values and attitudes are learned. But as parents and teachers discover from time to time, Values and Attitudes are more easily caught than taught.

Traditionally, there have been four major Social groupings and institutions which shape the moral development of the individual. These are -

1. The Family
2. The Church
3. The School
4. The Peer Group

To these four, add two more, The Media, especially Cable T.V. in our situation and the influence, or perhaps the DOMINANCE of the Political Culture.

One thing is clear - the influence of the Peer Group, the Media and the Political Culture has increased markedly in the last 25 years at the expense of the Family, The Church and the School.

Historically, the influence of the Family in Caribbean Society has never been as strong as it should be. Added to this, the role and influence of men in Caribbean societies is declining. Men are being out achieved by women in the educational system and outnumbered by them in the professional, administrative and managerial occupations.

Chief Education Officers of Commonwealth Caribbean countries meeting in Anguilla in 1990, voiced deep concern about the poor performance of boys at the various levels of the education system. The general perception throughout the Caribbean is that boys in particular, and men in general, are not living up to past expectations.

THE CHURCH

The influence of the Church has been declining and this is evidenced not only by the fact of declining membership and attendance, but even more significantly by the fact Christians do not generally speaking live up to the high moral standards mandated by Christ.

THE POLITICAL CULTURE

It is interesting to note that many of the controls which were exercised by the colonial masters - and which local political leaders complained about bitterly, when they did not control the levers of power - (those controls) remain as firmly in place today as they did 25 years ago.

Independence has brought about a transfer of power from Downing Street (or wherever) to Church Street. But has anything really changed?

Compared to 25 years ago, an immense amount of power is concentrated in the hands of whoever heads the Government of the day. Compared to 25 years ago, there is no plantocracy to challenge what it perceives to be abuse of power by the Government. No plantocracy to provide a safe haven for those who for one reason or another cannot find employment with the Government. It is estimated that Government controls directly and indirectly about 70% of the jobs in St. Kitts-Nevis. It controls the National Radio and Television System.

On the other hand one of the great legacies of the colonial era - a Neutral and Impartial Civil Service - has been virtually destroyed. The only remaining bastion is the Judiciary.

Quite apart from the power and patronage controlled by any Government, what is more significant in the context of the Quality of Life is the manner in which such power and patronage is exercised.

Catalogue of some of the values which our political system promotes:

- (1) POLITICS IS ALL PERVASIVE
- (2) It reinforces dependency on the State and politicians.
- (3) Political partisanship is more important than Citizenship.
- (4) There is a perception that Favouritism as opposed to Fairness is a way of life.

- (5) The political system demands blind loyalty and obedience.
- (6) It promotes and perpetuates divisiveness even among members of the same family, Church group.
- (7) Intolerance
- (8) Reinforces the need to see those who do not support your Party as "Enemies".
- (9) Failure to accept individual Responsibility, but rather to blame others and find scapegoats.
- (10) Deify your own political leaders.
- (11) Denounce the leaders and supporters of other side - there is nothing too nasty to say about the other side - if it doesn't exist, there seems to be nothing morally wrong with making it up.
- (12) Language of Politics consists of Lies, Innuendoes, Distortions and Half-truths.
- (13) Vindictiveness (Tit for tat, butter for fat; you kill me dog, I kill your cat).
- (14) No place in politics for Morality. To show compassion, decency is a sign of weakness. Never ceases to be amazed at the way people rejoice over some one else's misfortune, accident, sickness - or death.
- (15) Politicians regard "political power as a passport to private profit". I borrow this phrase from Louis Bloom-Cooper's Book - "Guns for Antigua" which is the Report of the Commission of Inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the trans-shipment of arms from Israel to Colombia via Antigua.

The prevailing ethic suggests that Politics is about making money. If you don't, you're a fool.

Unless we can cure our political system, it will continue to retard progress in these small societies and may even destroy them.

Big Concern: What values are we passing on to the next generation? To what extent are Christian Values being swamped by materialistic and secular values. It follows from what I have just said that reforming our political system is the No. 1 Priority. Any system which exacts

such a high human cost in terms of the apathy and alienation it engenders - is in urgent need of Reform.

Some people are apathetic because of Fear of Victimization and because of the perception that an all-powerful Government can crush an individual mercilessly. Better not get involved; better not say anything is the policy of many of our citizens.

It also follows that I would favour a Constitution closer to the American model but tailor made to suit our size and aspirations as a people and with the necessary checks and balances.

I would strongly advocate INTEGRITY LEGISLATION, in the hope of having more OPENNESS, ACCOUNTABILITY and INTEGRITY in public life.

CONCERNS AND OBSERVATIONS OF PARTICIPANTS

MORAL VALUES AND ATTITUDES

Moral values and attitudes have deteriorated to an unacceptable level.

Marked reduction in the extended family resulting in further breakdown in respect for self and others.

Lack of responsibility shown by fathers for upbringing of their children exacerbated by the need of women to work to contribute financially to the family.

Several people hold view that women should remain at home and control the upbringing of their children but these outnumbered by those who accept the economic necessity for women to work.

In any event unanimously accepted that there needs to be more and better guidance of children

High incidence of children living in homes without either parent makes problem worse.

Also there is a serious lack of collective community responsibility in our society.

Another contributing factor to the decline is the lack of role models

Recommendations included -

Introduce programmes aimed at re-establishing respect for education and ethics.

examine external factors affecting moral values.

devise strategy to counter effect of negative student peer pressure.

provide training and support for untrained young parents and suggest ways of improving parent-child relationships.

re-introduce moral instruction in schools.

provide more morally edifying literature (and build a proper Public Library).

strengthen the Youth and Community Affairs Department and other Government Departments working in this field.

Non governmental organisations should introduce programmes to reach out to children and communicate with them.

Commercial organisations should sponsor young persons to attend events such as this conference.

re-introduce compulsory participation in sports as a means of promoting team spirit and discipline.

insist on teachers providing greater moral guidance and setting a proper example.

Integrity regulation required for politicians who should lead by example.

PRESENTATION ON RECREATION AND CULTURE by Alphonso Bridgewater
Peace Corps Director, Former National Sportsman and Coach,
Director of Okolo Tegremantine Dance Theatre.

25 years ago Cricket was King, it still is but there is debate about its mortality. Full Adult Suffrage had only been enjoyed for 15 years. The Peace Corps and British VSO volunteers had a marked influence on our education and by extension on our cultural development.

Focus on Quality of Life now very much in vogue. 19th Century focus was on how to die well. 20th Century focus is on how to live happy. Life expectancy and literacy rate are factors with greatest impact in determination of quality of life. Americans have an American dream. We lack such yard stick.

Adopts definition of culture give by Rodney as "a way of life encompassing the way we walk, the way we talk, the way we speak, the way we eat". Culture not synonymous with Carnival.

Recreation means to re-create oneself in order to maintain one's capacity to work.

Some features of our lifestyle and recreation

1. Not culturally part of us to be well organised. Decisions often made in 'disorganised' locations e.g. bars.
2. Names of boats on Bay Road and rum shops and bars throughout Basseterre reflect our cultural attitudes. They are names of other places to which we have emigrated. Shows how much we have looked outward.
3. Naipaul in 'Mimic men' - we are so accustomed to looking outward that we even do so for a categorisation or opinion of ourselves. We have not moved far in this regard in the past 25 years. There must be a balance between looking out and looking in.
4. Functions like this Conference show how much it is the people who need the exposure least who attend.
5. In no other country do people spend as much energy in political campaigns as we do in St. Kitts. Some of this energy should be spent on activities such as this Conference which would diminish our political polarisation.

6. Our Quality of Life suffers from lack of continuity in persons involved in sport. We often try to go too fast forgetting how fixed some habits are in our community.
7. Changing patterns of sport indicate perceptions some individuals have of improvement of their quality of life - movement from cricket to tennis to golf.
8. The business sector has influenced development to a greater extent than they know. This reflects cultural fact that Governments tend to follow rather than lead.
9. Women too have played a far greater role in our organisations than we perceive.

Development is viewed as synonymous with Quality of Life. 5 areas of development in any developing society:

1. Fertility
2. Health
3. Income
4. Nutrition
5. Education

Suggests that Ministries of Government should be labelled in these terms rather than in the traditional existing terms.

Conclusion - the impact of culture and recreation on the Quality of Life in past 25 years has been mixed and contradictory. We have been highly influenced by our contact with the USA and with other Caribbean countries and by the influences of Africa. These have led to some conflict and confusion but out of that confusion we have at times reached the stage of cultural integration.

CONCERNS AND OBSERVATIONS OF PARTICIPANTS

RECREATION AND CULTURE

Recreational facilities poorly maintained. Young people using these facilities should participate in their maintenance.

Insufficient organised sport at school and youth levels. This is main reason for inability of St. Kitts to produce top sporting stars (particularly in cricket).

Administration of sport tends to reflect the prevailing political standards - excessive partisanship and personal aggrandisement instead of team effort.

Standard of team sport in St. Kitts has deteriorated because of lack of national pride.

Insufficient attention paid to mental and psychological aspects of sport at both management and player levels.

Kittitian personality not sufficiently forceful and Kittitians too satisfied with mediocrity. We therefore tend to collapse in close competition.

Our successful sportsmen should be promoted as role models.

Cable TV influencing young people away from traditional sports, particularly cricket which provides only realistic source of a good income at professional level.

Young people foolishly distracted by unattainable dreams of the NBA.

Too great an emphasis on Queen Shows as 'cultural events'.

True cultural achievement lies in art forms of song, dance, theatre, painting and carving.

Traditional folklore is languishing while carnival which is an 'imported' event with little cultural value flourishes.

Greater non-partisan respect should be shown for flag, national anthem and other symbols of nationhood.

Such symbols should be permanent and not subject to change on change of Government.

**PRESENTATION ON COMMUNICATION AND THE MEDIA by Charles Wilkin
Barrister-at-Law**

The Quality of Life of our nation is not dependant only on economic factors, moral issues or the physical environment. The ease with which our citizens can participate in civilised activities is a critical feature of the quality of life. Democracy is the foremost of civilised activities and communication is the essence of democracy. The fundamental right to freedom of speech enshrined in our Constitution is not intended only to safeguard free speech but also to promote full and responsible communication as a means of maintaining and strengthening the democratic process. The extent and level of that communication is indicative of the strength of the democratic system.

A quick historical perspective over the past 25 years shows the total domination of the life of our community by the struggle between the two main political parties - PAM and Labour - which struggle has become so endemic and pervasive that the term 'political tribalism' has been accurately applied to it.

Against this background state of communication on public issues very limited. Political polarisation has left the mainstream of our people fixed in their beliefs and unable or at best unwilling to communicate constructively at a public level. This is reflective of the level of parliamentary debate which is almost insulting to intelligent thought. Concerned effort required in following areas to raise the level of communication:-

1. Groups such as sponsors of this Conference must provide forums for such discussion on a non partisan basis.
2. Individual members of the community must be prepared to express their views openly without fear. Political leaders are servants not masters of the people. Whether they like it or not they must be made to listen to and hear our views.
3. The Church must play a greater role in sensitising our people to the realities of our democratic life.
4. Adult members of the community must impress on the young the need to read.
5. The languishing art forms - theatre, painting, carving, traditional music must be revived to provide means of expression and to create civic pride.

6. Our politicians must be persuaded to raise the level of their debate and to concentrate on issues and ideas rather than personalities and to involve the people to a greater degree in the legislative process.
7. More responsible use must be made of the media.

British journalist Francis Williams wrote in his book 'Dangerous Estate: The Anatomy of Newspapers'

"The development of the Press is part of the history of national development. Much more than political institutions, statistics of economic progress or demonstrations of national unity the state of a country's newspapers discloses which rung of the ladder of civilisation has been reached."

If we are to apply this very pertinent test to our situation we have two choices on which to base the analysis. We can claim that in fact we have no newspapers of our own and there would be much justification for that contention; or we can open the two locally published rag sheets to scrutiny. Either way in applying the test we could not reach above the first rung of the ladder of civilization.

ZIZ Radio was introduced 30 years ago to fill a needed communication gap. From its early days however it became a Government Mouthpiece and has remained so ever since.

The ZIZ television service was developed belatedly as an extension of the radio service. There has been little development of ZIZ TV service which now seems to operate as an extension also of the worst aspects of Cable TV - the soap operas and the violent movies - and to a limited degree of regional TV.

ZIZ Radio and TV are terribly misused and underused. The time has come for these stations to be operated under a truly independent authority and for the resources allocated to them (as well as other outside resources which are attainable) to be used for meaningful programming.

They constitute important media for the dissemination of Government information and programming but access to them should not be barred to the political opposition.

Cable television is the most recent and perhaps the most impactful of the broadcast media services in our nation. It is a positive force in many ways. It provides some good entertainment and some educational and uplifting programming. However, it has many negative effects. These include the exposure of our young people to the violence which is so integral a part of US movies, and the soap operas which exemplify the famous latin saying 'parva parvos animos delectant' - small things amuse small minds. The effect of Cable TV on our cultural development is potentially destabilising. The American lifestyle of glitz and glamour, unattainable to most of our population, is nevertheless idolized and the impact on our moral values and attitudes is already changing our society for the worse. Cable TV is even affecting our taste for sports.

The effects of Cable TV require careful study on an ongoing basis and a deliberate effort to counter the negative effects and particularly the impact on our youth. These efforts should be combined with a thrust to stimulate our people to active participation of all in the democratic processes. The quality of our life would be all the better by the greater use of our minds.

CONCERNS AND OBSERVATIONS OF PARTICIPANTS

COMMUNICATION AND THE MEDIA

The private sector and non government organisations should examine ways of establishing a new newspaper.

Serious attention should be paid to improving the programming of ZIZ Radio and TV.

ZIZ TV should concentrate on the production of local programming.

ZIZ TV should have an independent Board.

The existing newspapers should invite citizens to contribute articles of value.

The local media could be the most important tool to promote the improvement of the quality of life but little use is made of the media in this direction.

VON Radio is a good example of a responsible radio station.

PRESENTATION ON THE ENVIRONMENT by Randolph Walters, Natural Resource
Management Consultant

In our insular setting the topics 'Quality of Life' and 'Quality of the Environment' are so interwoven that it is almost impossible to make serious reference to one in isolation of the other.

In the past 25 years our monitoring and management capabilities have not kept abreast of the Socio-economic interventions that have been made into the local environment. This presentation therefore biased towards the more obvious land uses and how they affect the environment practice.

Environment Changes Since the Attainment of Self Government

Self government introduced a number of significant changes in both the socio-economic strategies that the residents of St Kitts and Nevis employ to improve their standards of living, and also in the ways they use their environment (the means) to effect those improvements. For example, land tenure and land uses have changed significantly in past 25 years; access to the ownership of land became easier for many. Some of the changes in land uses have altered or have the potential to seriously alter the biophysical environment of the nation.

The uses of our land resources over the last 25 years have been some of the major factors that have influenced most of the major environmental changes that one can easily discern today. For example:

- some abandoned sugar cane lands have been reverting to secondary forests;
- some of the said lands have been converted into food crop cultivations and grazing areas; while
- others have become extensions of sprawling human settlements.

Where the lands have reverted to forests, the effects can be viewed as positive, because they function, both as erosion reduction areas, and also as extensions to our vital watersheds. Another benefit that can be identified from the reversion of the sugar lands to forest is the potential that such areas retain for future alternative uses.

The conversion of sugar cane fields to other food crop cultivation has proven to be a source of both positive and negative effects.

Especially where sloping areas have been planted with crops that provide poor soil cover, there has been evidence of accelerated soil losses; a less obvious, and poorly monitored negative effect that appears to be occurring is runoff and/or leeching of a larger variety of agro-chemicals that can be affecting the quality of our potable and sea water resources - residual agro-chemical runoffs have been shown to cause serious impairment to both potable and sea water resources in the better studied areas of the world.

Sprawling extensions to human settlements, during the last 25 years, have shown signs of significant impacts on their immediate environments. Altered patterns of drainage and localised flooding are evident in some areas; waste disposal problems have increased, and the haphazard location of certain structures have reduced the future optional uses of a very limited resource.

Environmental Policy Changes Since the Attainment of Self Government

Specifically, our land use policies have neither kept pace with our changing land use practices, nor have the established policies been implemented regularly. At the same time, the basis for creating and updating a comprehensive land use policy has existed before the inception of Self Government (Land Development Control Ordinance 15/1966). Additionally, complementary legal instruments have been created, such as 'The Watercourse and Waterworks Ordinance of 1972, The Frigate Bay Development Corporation Act of 1972, the Pesticides Act of 1973, the South East Peninsular Land Development and Conservation Act of 1986, and the National Conservation and Environmental Protection Act of 1987'.

In practice, official land use controls are implemented by a number different agencies that do not appear to have clearly defined linkages with each other. In some cases the authority to establish enforceable rules are not exercised, while in other cases discretionary variance prerogatives appear to be invoked in cases where the environmental costs are significantly greater than the benefits.

Towards Balancing Quality of Life Issues Against Environmental Quality Issues

To sustain the very crucial interrelationships between the quality of life improvements and the quality of our environment, as they relate to our changing land use practices, we need to initiate the following actions:

1. Update and formalise the provisions of the Land Development Control Act that relate to the zoning of land uses;
2. Land use planning should become an integral part of the economic development planning process, where actual costs and benefits can be weighed against each other (e.g. the infrastructural needs and the effects on adjacent resources);
3. Settlement extensions should be designed and executed with, not only their immediate biophysical effects in mind but also with an evaluation of the potential alternative land uses that may be lost or deferred; and
4. Alternative uses should be measured against proposed uses in an integrated manner.

Conclusion

The insular nature of our environment will continue to deny us the luxury of practicing land uses that are driven by trial and error. If the last 25 years were instructive, then they should have raised our consciousness about the risks of wounding the proverbial goose (the environment) that lays the golden eggs for improving our quality of life. Unbridled land use is a prescription for a short-lived improvement in the quality of life for St. Kitts and Nevis residents.

CONCERNS AND OBSERVATIONS OF PARTICIPANTS

ENVIRONMENT

The Pesticide Board should be activated to monitor and control the use of pesticides.

The National Conservation Commission should become active to promote the ideals behind the law which established it.

An example of the lack of environmental awareness and control was the dumping of 23,000 gallons of pesticide (used in animal dips to rid cows of pests) into soakaways throughout the island.

Chemicals are being sold in local business places with no indication on their packaging of their harmful character e.g. Furilan, a highly poisonous chemical is sold in one store in a plastic bag simply marked 'Furilan'. This product if put down to kill rats may also kill birds and larger animals.

The Litter Act must be fully enforced as its passage alone has had little effect on the problems it was passed to address.

Measures should be taken to make owners of vacant lots in development areas keep them clean. In this respect Government could clean such lots and recover its cost as a surcharge to the land tax assessed on the lots.

Concerns were raised about sewage leaking into one of the ponds at Frigate Bay.

Excessive noise from amplified music in Basseterre mostly on weekends should be controlled.

Successive Governments have allowed Government owned buildings (some in prime areas) to decay causing an eyesore and a waste of space and money.

Strong public support should be given to the fine efforts of the Basseterre Beautiful Committee and similar bodies to beautify Basseterre and maintain its traditional architecture which is an important part of our heritage.

Government should follow the example of the Basseterre Beautiful Committee and many in the private sector in the reconstruction of the Newstead Building and in giving a facelift to other Government downtown buildings.

The extensive desecration of property, the use of graffiti, irresponsible littering all indicate that we have a long way to go in developing responsible attitudes to our environment and to cleanliness in general.

A powerful non partisan campaign is required to instill a widespread sense of national pride which in turn will lead to greater concern for our environment.

Our eco-system is still very much intact. Some of our neighbours cannot make this boast. But the system is fragile and must be carefully guarded.

Some specific concerns are the effect of effluent from the Sugar Factory into Basseterre harbour; the effect of 'factory ash' emitted from the Factory stack on the health of inhabitants of nearby residential areas and the likely effect on sportsmen engaged in athletics and soccer at the proposed national stadium to be sited next to the Factory.

Concern also expressed regarding avalanches on the South east peninsula road and the scarring of the hillside in the area by Casablanca. It is hoped that that Company will be made to conform to the regulations in place to preserve the unique character and the environment of this fragile area.

Preservation of our environment should not be a political issue. It is a national issue of vital importance to all.

PRESENTATION ON EDUCATION by Mrs Viola Jacobs, Head Teacher
Basseterre Junior High School

1967 saw revolutionary changes in the Education system. A country's progress is directly related to its education system. However our colonial tradition of education did not lend itself to developing our resources for eventual progress to independence.

1. High School education was the privilege of a few.
2. The ability to pay was the main criterion for entry.
3. The curriculum offered was not suited to the needs of a developing country.
4. The attitudes instilled tended to reinforce allegiance to Britain and to underrate local efforts.
5. The system divided the people of the country and
6. Encouraged snobbery.

The changes from 1967 included:-

1. A two tier level of education available without tuition fees for all students.
2. The Grammar School and Girls' High School were merged to become the mixed sex Basseterre High School.
3. The 11 plus exam was abolished and entry to High School became automatic at age 12 or earlier for above average children.
4. There were 4 High Schools in St. Kitts and 2 in Nevis.
5. Students in rural areas could have high school education without having to travel to Basseterre and Charlestown.
6. Transportation was provided free for those needing it.
7. Teachers College was opened.
8. Evening Institute Classes were organised by the Ministry of Education.

9. The Technical College was opened in 1971.
10. After 1976 further changes were introduced - Guidance Counsellors were placed in some schools, and guidelines established to help inculcate proper values and help lessen the negative effects of social problems.
11. Pre-school education has been continually expanded.
12. A school for the deaf and mentally impaired has been established.
13. Non Formal Youth Skills Training Project has been established to train unemployed youths.
14. The University of The West Indies through its School of Continuing Studies has made an invaluable contribution by means of its Challenge Programme.
15. Nevis has its own Sixth Form College.

Some Visible Achievements

1. Numbers of students sitting G.C.E 'O' Level Exams in St. Kitts has risen from 126 in 1968 to 408 in 1992.
2. Number sitting "A' Levels in 1992 - 52.
3. Schools supply needs of Civil Service and expanding commercial sector.
4. More local entrepreneurs.
5. Considerable increase in size of the middle income bracket.

Invisible Achievements have changed complexion of entire society.

1. Less snobbery
2. Increased aspirations
3. Less wastage of brain power.

Attitudes

While much has been accomplished academically there is a lot to be done in the area of attitude development. Present state gives cause for great concern.

1. Hero is not well-mannered, hard-working, ambitious child but rather the bully, the lazy trickster and the law breaker.
2. Hardworking students who strive to do well are teased by many of their peers.
3. Far too many children without goals
4. Mention of hard work stirs up trouble
5. Lack of civic pride
6. Wanton destruction of public and private property
7. Lack of respect for owners
8. Good manners no longer the norm
9. Emphasis on instant gratification
10. Honesty no longer best policy
11. Increased crime and fear of attack
12. Lack of commitment among workers generally including teachers
13. Mass media emphasis on entertainment.

In 1976 a publication by the Ministry of Education listed some of the above as weaknesses in the system. Despite the recommendations made in the report and other measures implemented the same problems exist and may even have been aggravated by the abuse of illegal substances.

Suggestions

1. Education not the business of the schools alone. Parental and community guidance essential for children.
2. Parent education through the media should be explored.

3. Curriculum of Teachers College should include regular compulsory sessions on self development, work ethics, communication skills, relationships and other topics related to development of the person.
4. Teachers should have sessions on how to detect substance abuse among students and on remedial measures.
5. People in the community need to give time to youth organisations.
6. The local TV Station must produce more educational material.
7. Use should be made of the untapped brain power in the community.

It is hoped that now that the work of the National Commission on Education has been completed we will soon have access to its findings and see some action on its recommendations.

CONCERNS AND OBSERVATIONS OF PARTICIPANTS

EDUCATION

General observation that education geared towards preparing children to pass exams rather than giving them a well-rounded education to prepare them for life.

Education must be relevant to life in St. Kitts-Nevis and opportunities available here.

Sandy Point High School pointed out as an example which other schools should follow with the programme of past students to assist in the education and extra-curricular activities of current students.

The National Association of Extension Workers praised for their help in adult education.

The media should play a greater role in this area.

Teachers need to be re-motivated. The low salary structure is a demotivating factor.

Greater care should be taken in the selection of persons for the teaching profession. Academic achievement should not be the only criterion for selection.

A dress code should be instituted for teachers.

Age should not be the main factor in promotion. Exceptional children should not be kept back because of their age.

Two five year schools should be established to replace the Basseterre Junior High School and the Basseterre Senior High School.

An independant Scholarship Committee should be established to process applications for scholarships offered by or through the Government.

Independant Advisory Boards should be appointed to assist in the management of schools.

Walk-a-thons should be abandoned in favour of Clean-a-thons and other constructive and instructive activity. Walk-a-thons simply expose children to danger from traffic without exposing them to productive work for the funds they raise.

Parents should monitor more closely the education of their children and counter the negative impact of television and other external influences.

Greater involvement is required from the community in schools.

The learning experience has become extremely isolated. The whole island should now become the classroom. This could bring wider awareness to students and expose them to positive values and the work ethic.

LIST OF CONFERENCE OFFICIALS

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Charles Wilkin	Rotary Club of St. Kitts (Conference Convenor)
Cecil Jacobs, C.B.E.	Rotary Club of St. Kitts
Errol Liburd	St. Kitts (Basseterre) Lions Club
Sylvia Manning	Business & Professional Womens Club of St. Kitts
Al Elmes	St. Kitts Christian Council
McClure Taylor	St. Kitts Jaycees
Jacqueline Cramer-Armony	St. Christopher Heritage Society
Sam Franks	St. Kitts-Nevis Chamber of Industry & Commerce

OPENING DINNER COMMITTEE

Michael Bentley, Desdemona Henry,
Jasmin Hanley

PLENARY SESSION CHAIRMEN

Richard Skerritt, Peter Jenkins

GROUP SESSION MODERATORS

Constantine Richardson, Herbert Hanley
Willa Franks-Liburd, Calvin Cable
Vernon Veira, Larry Armony.

RAPPORTEURS

Agnes Farrell, Donna Manchester-Joseph,
Jacqueline Cramer-Armony, Glenford
Hamilton, Victor Williams, Deborah Brookes
Jasmin Hanley, McClure Taylor.

