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FILE TITLE: RELATIONS		SERIES: ST. VINCENT
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Series : **ST VINCENT**

File Title : **RELATIONS**

Part : **1**

Date	From	To	Subject	Class	Secret
25/06/1998	FCO	FA/APS	Message of congratulations to the PM of St Vincent and the Grenadi	C	0
06/11/2000	FCO	FA/APS	St Vincent and The Grenadines: Messages from the PM to Incoming	U	0



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Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

6 November 2000

London SW1A 2AH

Dear Anna,

JS
Prem

St Vincent and the Grenadines: Messages from the Prime
Minister to Incoming and Outgoing Prime Ministers

Sir James Mitchell, who had served as Prime Minister of St Vincent and the Grenadines for 16 years, stood down on 27 October at the 21st anniversary celebrations of the independence of St Vincent and the Grenadines. Although his reputation as Prime Minister has been somewhat dubious, not least because of his known links with some 'dodgy' banks and businessmen, he is the first Prime Minister in the history of St Vincent and the Grenadines to voluntarily relinquish power.

Sir James played a leading role in the defence of the Windwards banana industry. CARICOM used him as a negotiator in Haiti and he helped the Commonwealth Secretariat to broker democratic transition in the Gambia. He is regarded as a Senior Statesman in the region. He will remain a constituency MP and Senior Parliamentary figure until the next election, planned for March 2001.

Former Finance Minister Arnhim Eustace was sworn in as Sir James' successor on 27 October. Eustace has been leading the majority party, the NDP, since August.

Messages of congratulations from the Prime Minister to Sir James and Arnhim Eustace would be well received in St Vincent and the Grenadines and they may also receive some local media attention. I attach drafts. ...

These messages would continue to build on our relationship with St Vincent and the Grenadines following the UK/Caribbean Forum. The draft message to Sir James reflects more his role in the region rather than as Prime Minister.

Yours ever,
Patrick

(Patrick Davies)
Private Secretary

Ms Anna Wechsberg
10 Downing Street

**DRAFT MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO SIR JAMES MITCHELL,
THE OUTGOING PRIME MINISTER OF SAINT VINCENT AND THE
GRENADINES**

Rt Hon Sir James Fitz-Allen Mitchell KCMG
Parliament
St Vincent and the Grenadines

Please accept my best wishes on the occasion of your retirement as Prime Minister of St Vincent and the Grenadines. Your term of leadership has been one of the longest in the history of the Caribbean and I am well aware of your valued services to the wider region and the Commonwealth.

[Penny Walsh
LAVCD, 2687]

**DRAFT MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO ARNHIM EUSTACE,
THE NEW PRIME MINISTER OF ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES**

Hon Arnhim U Eustace
Prime Minister
St Vincent and the Grenadines

Please accept my congratulations on your appointment as Prime Minister of St Vincent and the Grenadines. I look forward to continuing the close and friendly relations which exist between our two countries.

[Penny Walsh
LACD, 2687]



Foreign &
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Office

London SW1A 2AH

file - hold Fco to issue as amended.

25 June 1998

PeB
26/6

cc JEH
MC/JB.

Dear Philip

Message of Congratulations to the Prime Minister of
St Vincent and the Grenadines

At a General Election on 15 June the ruling New Democratic Party (NDP), led by Prime Minister Sir James Mitchell, won a fourth consecutive term in office. The NDP won 8 seats with the United Labour Party (ULP) taking the balance of 7 seats. This was a pretty disastrous but not entirely unexpected result for the NDP. They previously held 12 of the fifteen seats.

Some of the individual results were particularly close eg the margin in East Kingstown was only 62 votes, and the ULP polled more total votes (25,506) than the NDP (23,219). The closeness of the results have resulted in some calls for recounts and accusations of electoral fraud. But it is clear that Sir James Mitchell's New Democratic Party (NDP) is now back in place. We should, therefore, continue relations with Mitchell and his administration as before.



However, Sir James was upset by the appearance on a ULP platform by David Lock MP during the election campaign at which he conveyed a strong message of support from Mr Blair. Although Mr Lock stressed later that the message was from Mr Blair as Head of the Labour Party and not the British Prime Minister, it is doubtful that the distinction was noted and understood by the people of St Vincent who heard this. Sir James considers that this could have contributed to the NDP's poor result.

... We believe a brief congratulatory message from the Prime Minister along the lines of the attached draft would be appropriate.

Yours ever

Andrew Patrick

(Andrew Patrick)
Private Secretary

Philip Barton Esq OBE
10 Downing Street

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO THE RT HON SIR JAMES
FITZALLEN MITCHELL KCMG, PC, MP, PRIME MINISTER OF ST
VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

Please accept my warm congratulations on your
re-appointment as Prime Minister of St Vincent and the
Grenadines. I offer you my best wishes and I look forward
to ^{continuing} ~~the continuance~~ of the close and friendly relations
which exist between our two countries.

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