

Vincentian Diaspora Independence Celebration in Northern Ireland

27 October 2012

Hollywood, NORTHERN IRELAND: Through the Consulate for St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) to Northern Ireland & the Vincentian British Forces Wives/Women's Association (VBFWA) an evening reception was hosted to commemorate SVG's 33rd Year of Independence.



Back (L): Dr Christopher Stange – Hon. Consul for St. Vincent and the Grenadines to Northern Ireland and Front (R) Yolande Robertson Greene – VBFWA President with some of the Vincentian Diaspora in Northern Ireland and visiting Vincentians.

The event was held at Palace Barracks, Headquarters of the 2 Mercian Regiment Infantry Division with the following Vincentian army personnel based with their families and serving in Northern Ireland: Cpl Winston Lewis, Pte Rohan Sterling (Redemption Sharpes), Pte Imron Goodluck (Biabou), Pte Zachary Joseph (Stubbs), Pte Jando Durrant (Campden Park), Pte Akeem Alexis (New Montrose), Pte Lenroy Westfield (Junction), Pte Keba Butler (Park Hill), Pte Akeem Anderson (Cane Garden), Pte Andris Richardson (Barraoulie), Pte Brenton Hoyte (Sandy Bay/Rillan Hill), Pte Michael Greene (Calliaqua/ Prospect), Pte Linton Peters (Biabou), Adonis Browne (Lowman's Wd).

Mrs Yolande Robertson-Greene welcomed all Vincentians, other Caribbean nationals, military and government officials, members of the Consular Corps and well wishers to the

Independence event, followed by a prayer from Minister Stephen Bumwoody and the SVG National Anthem. Dr Christopher Stange – Hon. Consul for St. Vincent and the Grenadines delivered an address on behalf of the SVG Government, conveying sentiments from Governor General – Sir Frederick Ballantyne, Prime Minister – Dr Ralph Gonsalves, Foreign Minister – Dr Douglas Slater, Cabinet and High Commissioner to the UK – H.E. Cenio Lewis.

A vote of thanks was provided by Mrs Wenique Allen to end the formalities and the start of a Vincentian banquet of peanut/coconut cake, sweet bread, callaloo soup, doughboy and saltfish, doucana, boil corn and pigtail, pelau, stew pork, macaroni pie and salads with refreshments of mauby, sorrel, ginger beer, linseed and fruit juices.

Entertainment was in the form of Vincentian storytelling, poetry, open mic, karaoke and a domino/draft tournament.

ENDS

Notes to Editor:

- A large proportion of the Vincentian Diaspora in Northern Ireland is attached to the British Army resultant from the efforts of the SVG Ministry of Foreign Affairs, SVG High Commission in London and the SVG Consulate in Northern Ireland recruitment initiatives for employment. A special mention to SVG Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials: Sir Louis Straker, Dr Douglas Slater, H.E. Cenio Lewis and Earl Paynter for their efforts.
- The Vincentian British Forces Wives/Women's Association (VBFWA) is a support network that was established for women with partners in the British Forces.
- SVG gained its full independence from the United Kingdom on October 27, 1979.