



**The Prime Minister  
St. Vincent and the Grenadines  
West Indies**

August 24, 2010

**OPEN LETTER TO THE PEOPLE OF THE CARIBBEAN  
BY  
DR. THE HON. RALPH E. GONSALVES  
PRIME MINISTER OF ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES**

My Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Caribbean,

**RE: DEFAMATION OF ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES AND  
ATTEMPTS AT DESTABILISING ITS GOVERNMENT**

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**THE ISSUE**

Over the past eleven months or so, commencing around October 2009 and continuing, foreign elements out of Britain and the United States of America have aligned themselves to the opposition New Democratic Party (NDP) of St. Vincent and the Grenadines in an insidious campaign of defamation of this blessed country and of attempting to destabilise the Unity Labour Party (ULP) government led by me.

**LATEST CHAPTER**

The latest chapter of this dishonest and anti-national campaign, in the run-up to our country's eighth general elections since independence, has been led by two Americans in conjunction with the NDP. These Americans are Dave Copps, a dot.com millionaire who is the owner and founder of Pure Discovery Corporation, and Blake Burris of Dynamo Labs. They are the co-founders of CoHabitat, a co-working space for entrepreneurs in Dallas, Texas. Copps owns a house in Bequia, one of the islands in the multi-island nation-state known as St. Vincent and the Grenadines. In the past, Copps did work for the Pentagon, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

CoHabitat is master-minding a campaign in relation to St. Vincent and the Grenadines under the rubric "Save Democracy for Just \$5". Their damning falsehood is that there is no democracy, no freedom, and an absence of a guarantee of civil liberties in St. Vincent and the Grenadines under the ULP government. According to them, I have aligned myself with Hugo Chavez of Venezuela and thus should be removed from office. They proclaim that "St. Vincent and the Grenadines deserves to be free as the rest of us". They

**Tel: 1 784-456-1703 <> Fax: 1 784 457-2152**

**pmosvg@vincysurf.com**

assert that they are doing what they could “to give the people in St. Vincent and the Grenadines back the democracy they painfully miss and we fervently cherish”. What imperial, what colonial arrogance!

In a Facebook posting on February 14, 2010, Copps critiqued my government’s building of the International Airport at Argyle. Among other things he wrote:

*“It is important to note that this airport is being built ‘at all costs’ which includes selling of Crown Lands in Bequia. These lands were meant for the people of Bequia. The irony of selling the country’s treasures so people can fly here to experience the country’s treasures is a sad one”.*

Irony indeed! Copps, a Texan, who owns property in Bequia is arguing about lands meant for the people of Bequia. What is this man’s business with our international airport and our lands? We are selling state-lands in order to pay for the nearly 400 acres of private lands required for the site of this vital international airport.

## **FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY IN ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES**

It is my government which has strengthened democracy and freedom in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, curtailed official corruption, and enhanced good governance. All this has been recognised by the governments of Britain and the USA, by the World Bank, and by non-governmental bodies such as the Freedom House Foundation and the Caribbean-Guyana Institute for Democracy (C-GID), both based in the USA.

In the United States of America, the Federal Election Campaign Act makes it illegal for any foreigner to make direct or indirect contributions, donations or funding in connection with any election in the United States. If foreigners cannot fund American campaigns, why do Americans think that they can fund ours? Is our sovereignty not equally important?

## **EARLIER CHAPTER**

This recent defamatory campaign against St. Vincent and the Grenadines and the quest to remove my government are but a continuation of the nasty, dishonest campaign of the opposition NDP for the Referendum on a proposed new Constitution for St. Vincent and the Grenadines on November 25, 2009. In that venture, the NDP was aided and abetted by Strategic Communications Laboratories (SCL) of Britain, led by the notorious Nigel Oakes. SCL advertises itself as an organisation which has as its principal business “the art and science of mind-bending”. It boasts of having borrowed its techniques, in part, from Adolph Hitler, the founder of racist Nazism. On the Advisory Board of SCL sits the former Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and founder of the opposition NDP, Sir James Mitchell.

## **QUEST FOR FOREIGN CONTROL**

This is not merely an exercise by an opposition party hiring foreign consultants to assist them in mounting an electoral campaign. This has gone much further. It involves defaming the good name of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, attempting to destabilise a democratically-elected government, and seeking to exercise foreign control of our country, its democratic institutions, and people.

It is known publicly that the opposition NDP has promised its financiers the reintroduction of the sale of passports and Vincentian citizenship to foreigners. My government had repealed the law and abolished the programme upon which this sale of our birthright was based. I have been advised that in another country in the Caribbean, a foreign entity with the exclusive right to sell that country's passports and citizenship, financed SCL to run the recent campaign of a political party in that country. This must be a matter of great concern to the Caribbean people.

I ask: What else of our patrimony are the foreign elements seeking? Lands at preferred prices? Incentives for nefarious schemes? Sale of Ambassadorships?

## **CONTROL AND HEROIC RESISTANCE**

The history of our region is littered with attempts at foreign control of our patrimony and destiny. It has been awashed, too, with heroic resistance to such attempts at foreign control or undue influence. Oft-times these attempts have been directed by foreign governments or their agencies. These attempts have included conquests, invasions, enslavement, destabilisation, and control of the nation's resources or institutions. Other occasions have thrown up modern-day buccaneers, for example, the Texan Allen Stanford, and others of his ilk. In the case of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, the foreign marauders don the ideological garb of the backward "Tea Party" activists in the USA and the right-wing zealots in Britain to mask their controlling designs. So, one of their targets is the nationalist foreign policy of my government which seeks to enlarge my country's independent political and economic space in the interest of our people's humanisation. Thus, the critique of the principled relationship between St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Venezuela, among others, by them.

## **THE NEXT PHASE**

The next phase of the anti-national, anti-people campaign by some others who also have an interest in destabilising my government, not including any of these identified above, would be the strengthening of cozy relationships between some opposition figures and those engaged in drug trafficking and money-laundering. This criss-crossing of interests have played themselves out in Jamaica under opportunistic ideological clothing, particularly in the efforts in the late 1970s to destabilise the Michael Manley government, until the monster of violence and pillage almost consumed a magnificent land and its people. The dangers are even greater in a smaller country like St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

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## SOLIDARITY AND STRUGGLE

Accordingly, I bring this matter to the attention of my Caribbean brothers and sisters who share profoundly with us in a common humanity. I ask for your solidarity in this our struggle to build upon the immense gains in democracy, freedom, justice, and the people's upliftment and to resist those from outside of our region who defame us and who seek to control us. Solidarity, struggle, advancement and resistance are our watchwords. St. Vincent and the Grenadines is a vital beach-head in this enterprise of Caribbean solidarity. The foreigners who come to control us, divide us, ravage our resources, and dull our consciousness with backward ideas, are antithetical to everything noble in our Caribbean civilisation. We must resist them firmly!

This letter is also being sent to the Heads of Government of CARICOM and several regional organisations. I am attaching herewith certain relevant websites to enable everyone to appreciate the extent of the foreign mischief against my country.

Sincerely yours,



Dr. The Hon. Ralph E. Gonsalves  
Prime Minister