

Interviewer: Minister what about Qatar, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, what of forging links within the Middle East?

Sir Louis Straker: These are countries we are moving towards now. We were one of the early countries to establish diplomatic relations with Libya. These countries are rich and have reaped the benefits of oil for a number of years, and I think we would do well forging links with these countries. We have, to some extent benefited from the Kuwaiti Fund, where assistance was received for the repairing and expansion of the E.T. Joshua Airport

Interviewer: We notice an increasing trend of women entering Politics in this Country and by extension regionally, what do you think of this move?

Sir Louis Straker: It's too slow, women are somewhat reluctant and hesitant to enter

politics, women feel it is too crude an experience for them to enter into. What should be done is to bring women in through the nomination process as Senators so that we can have a respectable presence in the House of Assembly of women, if they do not want to enter the rough and tumble of elective office, but I think it's a good trend. Additionally, women need to get beyond thinking that they have to vote for men, because a lot of women will tell you that they rather not vote for another woman.

Interviewer: Is there a project or anything special that you would have liked to complete before leaving office?

Sir Louis Straker: Certain pieces of legislation and reports we have been struggling with should have been implemented; the competition legislation, the consumer legislation and our export policy, unfortunately

are not complete. Additionally, we need more space here, it's important to have our physical space here reconfigured so that the staff can work comfortably.

Interviewer: Is there any possibility of you re-entering politics?

Sir Louis Straker: No, absolutely not, not at my age, *(laughs)* not elective politics as such. I do not know what I am going to do after I leave here, but in February I will be 69 years of age. Now that my party has retained Government, I will have several options in still being of service to my country. I do not know what those areas might be or what the Prime Minister will offer, but if nothing is offered its fine with me because I think at 69 years I have earned retirement. I can easily work in my community and be of service there.

Presentation of Credentials by Ambassadors

Country	Ambassador	Presentation Date
Republic of Korea	H. E. Mr. Yong Kyu Kwon	2010 – January 27
Israel	H. E. Mr. Amiram Magid	2010 – February 04
Republic of France	H.E. Mr. Michel Prom	2010 – February 11
Spain	H. E. Mr. Joaquín Maria de Aristegui	2010 – May 11

new resident Embassy of the Republic of Brazil in January, headed by Ambassador, His Excellency Renato Xavier.

In the latter half of last year, new resident Ambassadors of the Republic of China (Taiwan), His Excellency, Mr. Weber V.B. Shih, and the Republic of Cuba, His Excellency Mr. Pablo Antonio Rodriguez Vidal presented credentials to Governor General His Excellency, Sir Frederick Ballantyne in September and October, respectively.

Non-resident Ambassadors of the other countries with which St. Vincent and the Grenadines has close ties also presented their Letters of Credence to the Governor General.

Mrs. Florita E. Kentish, new Sub-Regional Coordinator of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO-UN) Office based in Barbados, also presented her credentials on 8th February to the Hon. Sir Louis Straker Former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Consumer Affairs. At right is a list of other countries that presented credentials in 2010.

One of the highlights of last year was the accreditation of eight foreign representatives to the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Our diplomatic calendar commenced with the opening of a

“To put the World in order, we must first put the Nation in order; to put the Nation in order, we must first put the Family in order; to put the family in order, we must first cultivate our personal life; we must first set our hearts right” .

By: Confucius