



CRO Inc., 49 St.Mary's St.
St.John's, Antigua
Ph:(268)724-6708
IMail: crosecretariat
@yahoo.com

11th CRO Summit

St.Vincent & the Grenadines (8th – 15th December 2006)

Theme

***Rastafari Reality – Reparations & Repatriation -Empowerment
into The New Ethiopian Millennium***

Friday 15th December 2006

Communique

The Caribbean Rastafari Organization has just concluded a highly successful 11th Summit of the organization with 50 overseas delegates joining the St.Vincent & the Grenadines Rastafari community in deliberations on matters of concern to the Rastafari Nation.

The official opening ceremony was held at the new **Questelles Resource Learning Centre** on Saturday (9th December) and the Summit was officially declared open by the parliamentary representative for South Leeward the honourable **Dr. Douglas Slater**. Dr. Slater conveyed the good wishes of Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves for the success of the Summit and commended the Rastafari community for contributing to the development of African peoples. As Minister of Health in St.Vincent & the Grenadines Dr. Slater also commended the Rastafari community for the focus on vegetarian eating and healthy living and expressed his government's commitment to support for Rastafari and its contribution to the commemoration of the bi-centenary of the abolition of the Atlantic Slave trade.

Sunday's sessions at the Richmond Vale Academy focused on Reparations and Repatriation and the feature address was delivered by **Ras Dr. Ikael Tafari**, Director of the Commission for Pan-African Affairs of Barbados. Ras Ikael charged the Gathering with developing specific initiatives towards Reparations and Repatriation and to establish a working Secretariat to administer those initiatives. Dr. Tafari highlighted the need for structuring Rastafari communities to facilitate Reparations and Repatriation and urged closer cooperation between the Caribbean Rastafari Organization and the Commission which he heads. Ras Ikael also accepted the CRO proposal to facilitate a Caribbean tour by Professor **Dr. Joy Leary** addressing the issue of Post-Traumatic Slave Syndrome.

A lively panel discussion on the issue was addressed by Ras Andre of the SVG Reparations committee, Ras Iral of Barbados, chairman of the CRO Reparations and Repatriation committee and by Ras Kunta of St. Vincent who outlined the initiatives of the Ethiopian African International Black Congress.

On Monday (11th December) the Summit discussions returned to Questelles with a seminar on Rastafari trade and commerce and a workshop on the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Panelists stressed the need to expand trade and commerce in and between Rastafari communities in establishing a strong economic foundation for the Rastafari nation and encouraged entrepreneurship and networking by the Rastafari communities. The gathering also identified projects which the CRO will be undertaking in the coming weeks.

At the HIV/AIDS session CRO Executive members shared their experiences at workshops and seminars on the disease in Anguilla, Barbados, Guyana and Uganda. The workshop/seminar was also addressed by two members of the St. Vincent & the Grenadines HIV/AIDS Secretariat Ms. Odinger Louie and Ms. Roswell Solomon who stressed compassion for victims and the need for responsible sexual practices and also distributed literature on the topic.

The gathering expressed concern regarding the origins of the HIV/AIDS virus, the propagation of several myths about the disease and the refusal of governments and authorities to accept and investigate the holistic, herbal and nutritional treatments that have been developed.

A Seminar on Natural healing at the Scouts headquarters facilitated by the chairman of the Health and Nutrition committee of the CRO Ras Bobby Olivacce, was the main feature on Tuesday (12th December). The seminar was also addressed by local herbalist Ruth-Anne Azore who described her experiences in herbal treatments. Ras Bobby, a trained herbal healer, emphasized the naturalists' motto, "Let your food be your medicine and your medicine be your food" and pointed out the danger of over-the-counter pharmaceutical drugs. The facilitator also stressed the dangers of immunization vaccines and delegates pledged to agitate and lobby governments and health authorities to allow their children to attend school without being vaccinated.

On Wednesday and Thursday delegates reasoned with members of the local Rastafari community and heard from representatives of the Trinidad & Tobago Rastafari Unity (TTRU) and the Ethiopian World Federation (EWF). Ras Jag President of the TTRU, which has branches in Trinidad and Tobago and the USA, outlined the aims and objectives of his organization and committed the TTRU to joining the CRO. Ras Cephas the President of the EWF of Martinique issued an invitation to the CRO to become a chartered member of the EWF and both representatives invited the CRO to visit their respective countries.

The 11th CRO Summit also adopted three resolutions on Reparations, on the Haitian situation and on the genocide in Darfur in the Sudan, calling on Caribbean governments to address these pressing issues.

The Summit ended on Saturday (16th December) with Nyabinghi Ises at the Rastafari Nyabinghi Tabernacle at Calliaqua.