APPENDIX VII

"COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN PREMIER BRADSHAW AND THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION - DECEMBER 1975 TO JANUARY 1977"

"48. On 13th December, 1975, the Premier, the Hon. Robert L. Bradshaw, wrote to Mr. Simeon Daniel, Leader of the Opposition and Chairman of the N.R.P., referring to the results of the General Elections and concluding as follows -"

"In the circumstances, I am firstly to welcome you, personally, to the ranks of membership of the House of Assembly, and secondly to invite your Party which gained complete control of the Nevis Local Council on 1st instant to join with my Government to give full effect to the expressed wishes of the electorate; to take part in the urgent development of the State, as well as to re-unite our people and to heal whatever wounds the elections may have caused."

"49. Mr. Daniel replied on 17th January, 1976 that he had carefully noted the contents of the Premier's letter. In a 10-page review of the situation, including six pages of appendices, the Leader of the Opposition states in paragraph 10 and 14 of his reply -"

"10. You have invited my party which gained complete control of the Nevis Local Council on December 8, 1975 to join with your Government to give full effect to the expressed wishes of the electorate". In the circumstances to give full effect to the expressed wishes of the electorate of Nevis would require frank recognition by you and your Government of the desire of the voters of Nevis to achieve Political Separation from the existing State of St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla as indicated by the recent overwhelming vote for candidate who campaigned on Secession. The people of Nevis are "united" in their resolve and no reunification is e necessary for them; as to healing "whatever wounds the elections may have caused" the injuries from which the Nevis People feel themselves to be suffering have antedated the recent elections by over two decades.

"14. In conclusion, frankness requires that you be told the facts which your syncophants will never share with you:

(a) It is the general feeling among Nevisians that your

attitude towards them and the island is one of calculated malevolence.

(b) By ignoring the anxious need of the people for proper roadways, adequate water supply, land use and development during your recurring administration you have demonstrated your complete disregard for and lack of interest in our island and its people; they have never forgotten and cannot forgive your well kept promise of 1957 that they should have "Bones in their rice and Pepper in their soup"

(c) The fictional character which your actions have ascribed to the Nevis Local Council since Statehood; your refusal to extend active constitutional recognition to it, or to include it in the administration of the affairs of Government regard and would continue to regard Nevis as a colonial appendage to St. Kitts a status which the people of Nevis would never continue to accept."

"50. The Premier wrote again to Mr. Daniel, on 6th April 1976, in the following terms -

"6th April, 1975

Dear Sir,

As was inevitable, Government are taking the steps that are necessary to bring this State to full independence; and I have been wondering whether you and your party were now prepared actively to join Government in walking along the road to Independence.

2. I thought of addressing this note to you despite the rebuff and the needless hostility of your letter of January 17, 1976 and of the petition dated January, 17, 1976 which your Party addressed to Her Majesty's Government Westminster on the question of secession for Nevis.

3. I had it in my mind to invite you to review all the efforts made, to your knowledge so far, to promote secession of Nevis from the rest of the State, because I am convinced that at the end you would find a cause for reflection which was bound to show that the most rewarding way forward for

Nevis is in its continued association with St. Kitts.

4. I hope you and your party are now minded to co-operate with Government in achieving independence for the State, and I accordingly invite you to advise me of any proposals you might wish to make thereto.

Yours faithfully

"51. The foloowing day a reply was received -

7th April, 1976

The Honourable Robert L. Bradshaw,
Premier
State of St. Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla,
Government Headquarters,
Basseterre,
St. Kitts,

Dear Sir,

I acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 6th instant concerning your wonderings over my party actively joining with Government to walk along the road to Independence.

The people of Nevis are resolute in their stand for Secession and neither the present representatives of the people of Nevis nor the Nevis Reformation Party will ever betray the trust and confidence reposed in them by the people of Nevis.

Yours faithfully,
(sd) S, Daniel
S. Daniel, Leader of
the Opposition"

Letter of 29th October, 1976

"52. In a further letter to the Leader of the Opposition dated 29th October, 1976, the Premier replied in full to the N.R.P. Proposals of September 1975 and again invited the co-operation of the Opposition. The Premier's letter stated inter alia-

"8. The behaviour of the NRP representatives in the House, as well as in the Nevis Local Council, has since the last General Elections, not only followed the pattern described in paragraph 4 thereof, but has been intensified as for example whem, at its swearing in last January, the Council deliberately rearranged the Agenda of the meeting to enable it to dispose of all the business save that of the Premier's address, and then all of the members, save the Chairman, walked out of the meeting as soon as that item was called. Also the two elected and the nominated member for Nevis walked out of the House of Assembly shortly after they were sworn in on 20th January, 1976 and without even the courtesy of awaiting the arrival of His Excellency the Governor to deliver the Speech from the Throne.

"9. Since that time the said three House of Assembly representatives, as well as members of the Nevis Local Council have acted in the same vein as was evidenced by their walk-out from the House of Assembly when the Budget Address was being given last April, the renunciation of British Development assistance before the Parliamentary delegation led by Sir Bernard Braine, as well as a similar renunciation last month with respect to the Cotton REscue Operation in Nevis before a team of experts led by Mr. J. R. Spencean operation which had been suggestdd last year in the House by the Member for Charlestown, Mr. I. Stevens, himself.

"10. I have recounted the above not by any means in rancour but simply to remind you of a particular pattern of events.

11. You, Sir, took the opportunity of your attendance at preliminary talks in London on independence last April to revise your party's list of demands of September 1975, which were then added to now, and after a lapse of several months during which there has been more than ample time for sober reflection and considered judgment to have been applied, I append the following reply, seriatim to those demands:-

"12. Re your items-

1. The question of lowering the voting age to eighteen years will be considered in relation to the Consti-

tution for the independence of this State.

2. The question of increasing the number of seats in legislature will also be considered in relation to the Constitution for independence of this State.

3. The Constitution does not invest the Premier with any power to dissolve the Nevis Local Council. Section 23 of the Local Government Act, 1967, reads as follows:-

(Section 23 quoted in full)

This provision is a safeguard against maladministration by the Council which must remain. Indeed, already, on 6th September, 1976, the Audit Department drew attention to the fact that "discrepancies militated against a true Revenue Return picture being presented by the Land and House Tax Records"; and only in the House of Assembly yesterday the Hon. Attorney General drew attention to the fact that up to now, the Nevis Local Council has not enacted a single Bye-Law.

"4. In order to preserve the vital link between Government and the Local Council, Government would be prepared to amend the Local Government act, 1967, to provide that the Secretary of the Council will be appointed after consultation with the Chairman of the Council.

8. This is a statement; but the Nevis Local Coun-il, after an existence stretching from the year 1967, has yet to show even the first faint sign of interest in the economic development of the island; on the countray, among other things, its members blatantly opposed drilling for common water and the establishment of the Pinneys industrial Estate.

"9. This is a subject which by its very nature and designation is one soley to be dealt with by Government.

"12. Provision was made in the 1976 Estimates for a Magistrate who will also be a Deputy Registrar of the Supreme Court particularly for service in Nevis. An appointment will shortly be made.

13. Britain stopped its Grants-in-Aid to this State as from the end of the year 1974.

14. Government has never tried to prevent the Nevis Local Council from begging; indeed, it was announced some time ago that the Council has begun collecting money for the building of dams. Government would be prepared to amend the Local Government Act to enable the Nevis Local Council to seek to borrow money of its own.

16. As the subject of Education is one for the State and not a segment of it, therefore the question does not arise. If by this demand the Council is seeking direct representation on the Board of Education, then the matter could be considered.

18. Government is prepared to continue to seek the advice and co-operation of the Council.

20. Government would hope that the Council itself was seised of the wisdom of adhering to the law of the land as it is expressed in the Local Government Act No. 20 of 1976, as variously amended.

25. This is a subject which by its very nature and designation is one solely to be dealth with by Government.

On "Further Suggestions"

7. Subject always to their availability, Government will continue to strive to keep at least two Medical Doctors in Nevis.
8. The Local Council continues to be free to make proposals and to submit recommendations to Government for the general good of Nevis.

13. In addition to, and apart from paragraph 12 hereof, Government are prepared to establish a system of consultation both at Ministerial and official level with the Local Council on matters of concern to Nevis. Government are also talking active steps (a) to strengthen administrative processes in Nevis by appointing a resident Permanent Secretary who would, after alia, co-ordinate and streamline all departmental activities for greater efficiency; appointing very shortly a Magistrate who will be a Deputy Registrar; and improving the procurement systems relative to passports, birth certificates and Income Tax clearances for travel, so as to make it more

unnecessary for Nevisians to travel to St. Kitts for those purposes unless they really wanted to, or that urgency compelled them to do so.

41. I have been at pains to try not only to give realistic and frank replies to your demands, but to advise you of the intentions of Government as regards Nevis; and I will end simply by reminding you that Nevis needs to be re-developed: the land of Nevis needs once again to be put to greater use so that it could produce more for the sustenance of its demanding people; the NRP needs frankly to recognise the unalterable reality of the broad initiative which Government has taken for the re-development of Nevis; and, above all, the Leaders of the NRP need to appreciate the necessity for co-operation with Government for the particular good of Nevis and for the general good of the State as a whole in the context of its projected independence. Accordingly, I again invite that co-operation from you."

"53. The Premier indicated that it was not possible to agree with the proposals numbered 5,6,7,10, 11,15,17,19,21, 22 or the "Further Suggestions" numbered 1-6.

"54. On 26th November 1976 the Premier wrote to the Leader of the Opposition notifying him of the appointment of a Magistrate and Deputy Registrar of the Supreme Court for Nevis.

"55. By letter dated 27th November 1976 the leader of the Opposition replied to the Premier's letter of 29th October 1976. Among other things Mr. Daniel wrote-

"I reply to your paragraph 9,I am certain that youu have not forgotten the number of times you yourself have walked out and led delegations out of various Legislative Council meetings.

No one from the N.R.P. has ever booed or organised a crowd to boo a Governor or indeed any of Her Majesty's Representatives.

Even as late as 4th May 1976, as head of the Government you saw it fit and proper to lead your Ministers and other members on the Government side out of the St. Kitts House of

Assembly when a Nevis Representative rose to move a resolution demanding secession for the people of Nevis after they had given their Representatives the undoubted mandate to so proceed. In regards to British Development Assistance, we have asked that if any kind of assistance is to come, then we wished that it would come direct to Nevis and not through your hands or that such assistance be withheld until Secession is achieved.

I will not here remind you of the neglect and repressive measures meted out to the people of Nevis at the hands of your Government.

The people of Nevis have witnessed your Government's manipulations of the Voters lists in 1971 and again in 1975 by giving to supporters of your party the chance to vote in two constituencies and by omitting from the voters list, names of voters whose name have been previous lists.

The people of Nevis are now witnessing your stock piling of arms in Nevis and it must be reasonable for them to assume that the weapons are stored in Nevis to be used on Nevisians when you deem the excuse and opportunity appropriate. The people of Nevis are reduced to the status of prisoners when travelling on the M.V. Liamuiga where armed guards stand ready to shoot on the daily journeys between Nevis-St. Kitts-Nevis.

The Communistic ideas, plans and actions of your Government are obnoxious to the people of Nevis and detrimental to the island's economy. You must realise, Sir, that Nevisians have a right to determine the system of Government under which they want to live. Every country, no matter how small has a right to self-determination. You will no doubt remember the Legislative Council meeting of 2nd December, 1975, where you reminded one of the then representatives of Nevis, on a point of order, that there was an elected House for St. Kitts many years ago, and one in Nevis too, and that the member should look up his history.

Referring to your paragraphs 11, 12 and 13 I must remind you that at the second meeting in Nevis in 1975, you were told that the list of demands was not complete but that more would follow. Do not try to make it appear that the talks

were concluded.

With reference to your paragraph 12, the people of Nevis have voted at your invitation for Secession. You should now act in a Statemanlike manner and give effect to the wishes of the people of Nevis. The Government of Jamaica did that in respect to the Turks and Caicos Islands and also to the Cayman Islands.

The Honourable Dr. Eric Williams of Trinidad and Tobago expounded his Government's position if Tobago was to ask for Secession.

The Honourable V. C. Bird, Premier of Antigua has declared his Government's position if Bermuda wanted secession.

The last mentioned Statesman has now introduced a Bill in his Parliament to give to the 1100 people of Barbuda much wider powers and greater autonomy than the people of Nevis have under the Local Government Act no 20 of 1967 as amended.

Indeed under the proposed Barbuda Local Government, Act, 1976, the Government of Antigua has granted the people of Barbuda all of the demands contained in the list of demands made by the Nevis Representatives at the talks in September, 1975.

The people of Nevis will never live in subjection under St. Kitts. I honestly thought that your letter would have contained at least an offer of a Federal system of Government for the two islands.

The people of Nevis are firm on their stand for Secession."

"56. The Premier replied as follows-

"4th December, 1976.

Dear Sir:

I have the honour to refer to your letter of 27th ultimo which I received on 1st instant, and simply to set the record straight I state as follows:-

(1) as apparently intended the contents of the letter

have, sadly, brought us no closer;

(2) the appointment of a Magistrate and Deputy Registrar whose prinicpal duties would be for Nevis was announced in the Budget address and provided for in this year's Estimates since 29th April, 1976; and any local person been interested in the job they would have applied for it. No local person so applied.

(3) I reject out of hand and with the utmost contempt your totally unfounded and erroneous assertion of "manipulations of Voters lists in 1971 and again in 1975". And as a lawyer you should be ashamed to have written such a thing because you are supposed to know the steps to take prevent any such imagined infringement of the law;

(4) as to your baseless allegation that Government is "stock piling" arms in Nevis, it might yet transpire that the boot is on the other foot;

(5) I can imagine your chagrin at seeing the St. Kitts Nevis ferry travelling under guard in that your party's foul design of seizing it has thereby been thwarted!

(6) your memory is conveniently short on Government assistance for boats built in Nevis. In this regard I say nothing about the considerable sum of money which was loaned to owners of the old "big boats" (sailing vessels) for repairs, etc., and which was never totally repaid. But I must refer specially to Government's waiving of duty on the engines of the M.V. Lavina which was built by your party colleague Mr. Rhone Liburd. The same engines were later re-moved from the vessel and sold, and the hulk was allowed to sink in the surf near the fort in Charlestown. Further, I think some duty concession was also made with respect to the boat named "Fisherman" which concerns another of your party colleague.

(7) It was utter nonsense for you to have stated that the Licensing of the exportation of local produce was directed against Nevisians for the simple reason that both import and export licensing has been in existence perhaps since during the last world War. Government must, naturally, be concerned about the use of locally produced food first

to feed the people of the land: surely an elementary principle like that ought not to have escaped you.

Yours faithfully,
Sgd. Robert L. Bradshaw

"57. By letter dated 6th January 1977 Mr. Daniel replied to the Premier-

"Dear Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 14th December, 1976 and to state as follows

In regard to your subparagraph (1) you are too concerned about setting up an Empire and becoming Prime Minister rather than listening to reason and the demands of the people of Nevis. I again refer you to the Statesmanship of one of your contemporaries The Honourable Vere Bird Sr., of Antigua and the provisions contained in the Barbuda Local Government Act, 1976 as compared to the Local Government Act of your State.

Referring to your paragraph(11) it is nonsense to contend that an announcement in the Budget Address and provisions in the Estimates amount to an advertisement for candidates for the post. If you refer to the said estimates you will be blinded by the usual numerous provisions which have been made but not even attempted. In regards to subparagraph (11) the evidence is there written large on the voters lists for the years mentioned Mr. Stuart Roberts when he was British Government Representative in St. Lucia was given copies of the 1971 list by the Nevis Local Council in Nevis which provide conclusive evidence of your Government's Manipulations of the Voters list.

You also know that the Voters list in Nevis were not made available until the day before the elections There was not time to take legal action before the elections. However in spite of your manipulations of the voters list the people of Nevis knew what they were about. I am not ashamed of being a lawyer - a sta-

tus you have spent years trying to achieve.

As to your subparagraph (IV) Time will tell. May the best side win.

As to subparagraph (V) your informers must be laughing at the numerous ways they have made a fool of you. As regards your Paragraph (VI) it is evident that your Government loans are granted as personal favours to individuals. Mr. Rhone Liburd was one of your secret Policemen in Nevis at the time the duty was waived on his engines. Further the waiving of duty on fishing gear has benefitted Kittitians as well as Nevisians. My contention is that the Development and Finance Corporation controlled and run by your Government refused to lend money to purchase two engines to a group of Nevisians who had formed a Company to provide means to export their produce which project the Development and Finance Corporation was established to assist.

Referring to your paragraph (VII) you cannot deny that Nevisians are the ones to suffer by the Licensing of the exportation of local produce because they are forced to sell the produce of their labour to Kittitians at very inferior prices to what they could get elsewhere. The people of Nevis receive no reciprocal benefits from the people of St. Kitts. Your recent discriminatory taxation on the fishermen of Nevis has killed yet another attempt by Nevisians to make a living by their own initiative. The similarity between Pharoah of biblical times asking the children of Israel to make bricks without straw and you forcing the people of Nevis to earn a living without due consideration for their toil is striking. The end result may yet prove to be similar.

Yours faithfully,
(Sgd.) Simeon Daniel

Elected representative Nevis No. 9