

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE ORGANIZATION OF  
AMERICAN STATES  
AND THE ELECTION OFFICE OF ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES ON THE  
ELECTORAL PROCESS OF MARCH 28, 2001

THE ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES, in this matter represented by the Supervisor of Elections, Mr. Selwyn Jones.

And

THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES, in this matter represented by the Chief of the OAS Electoral Observation Mission, Mr. Steven Griner.

Considering:

That on February 14, 2001, the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, through its Permanent Representative, Ambassador Kingsley Layne, invited the Secretary General of the Organization of American States to send an electoral observation missions to monitor the proceedings of the general elections to be scheduled before the end of March.

That on March 15, 2001 the Secretary General of the Organization of American States responded affirmatively to this request.

That in Resolution AG/RES. (XIX-0/89) the General Assembly of the OAS reiterated to the Secretary General the recommendation that "when a member state so requests in the exercise of its sovereignty, each of its electoral processes."

Declare that they have concluded the following agreement:

I. Guarantees

- a. The Election Office should provide the Mission with the means to adequately complete its observation of the general elections of March 28, 2001 in conformity with the electoral norms of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and the terms of this agreement;
- b. During Election Day and until the completion of the vote tabulation on the national level, the Election Office shall guarantee the Mission access to all electoral offices in the country.
- c. The Election Office shall guarantee the Mission access to all of the localities in which the counting of votes and the tabulation of results take place.

II. Information

- a. The Election Office shall grant all information concerning the organization, execution and supervision of the electoral process. The Mission may request from the Election Office additional information necessary to complete its duties.

- b. The Mission shall inform the Election Office of any irregularities or violations of the electoral code that it observes or about which it is notified. Moreover, the Mission may request from the Election Office information about measures taken to address these and other reported irregularities and/or violations of the electoral code.

- c. The Election Office will provide the Mission with information about the electoral registries and the information contained in computer databases. Moreover, the Election Office will provide other information regarding the transmission and tabulation of results on Election Day and offer demonstrations of its operation.

- d. The Election Office will guarantee the Mission access to all national and constituency offices that have as their responsibility the collection and tabulation of results. Additionally, the Election Office will allow the Mission to conduct any evaluations it deems necessary about the voting process and the communications utilized for the transmission of electoral results. Moreover, the Election Office will guarantee complete access to audits and other quality control mechanisms that may be put in place before, during and after the electoral process.

III. General Dispositions

- a. The Secretary General has designated as Chief of Mission, Mr. Steven Griner, who will represent the mission and its observers to the Election Office and to the Government.
- b. The OAS General Secretariat will communicate to the Election Office the names of the persons who will comprise the electoral observation mission. These observers will be identified with an accreditation specifically for these elections from the Election Office.
- c. The Mission should act with impartiality, objectivity and independence in the fulfillment of its objectives.
- d. The Secretary General shall present to the Permanent Council a copy of the final report of the Electoral Observation Mission.

- e. The Election Office shall make known and disseminate among all electoral office and personnel involved in the electoral process the contents of this agreement.

IV. Privileges and Immunities

- a. Nothing expressly stated or implied in this Agreement shall be construed as a waiver of the privileges and immunities that the OAS or any of its organs may enjoy under the Charter of the Organization, the Agreement between the GS/OAS and the Government in relation to the privileges and immunities of the Observers of the electoral process in St. Vincent and the Grenadines signed by the parties on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of March 2000, or under international law.

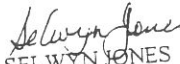
V. Dispute Resolutions

- a. The Parties shall attempt to resolve through direct negotiations any disputes arising in relation to the interpretation and/or implementation of this Agreement. If the negotiations do not result in the resolution of the dispute, the matter shall be submitted to arbitration in accordance with the procedure agreed to by the parties.

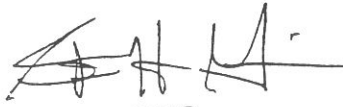
Thus agreed.

Kingstown, <sup>st</sup>27 of March 2001

FOR THE ELECTION OFFICE OF  
ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

  
SELWYN JONES  
(Supervisor of Elections)

FOR THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT  
OF THE ORGANIZATION OF  
AMERICAN STATES

  
STEVEN GRINER  
(Chief, OAS Electoral Observation Mission  
in St. Vincent and the Grenadines)