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PERMANENT MISSION OF ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES
TO THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

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February 14, 2001

H. E. César Gaviria
Secretary General
Organization of American States
17th Street & Constitution Ave.
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

RE: ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSION FOR ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

I am directed by the Hon. Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to formally request an OAS electoral observation mission for the general election to be conducted in the country before the end of March 2001.

The circumstances and events which have led to this election are unprecedented in the post-independence history of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The Government, in compliance with the terms of an agreement brokered by the Caribbean Community, at Grand Beach, Grenada, in May last year, has brought forward the election more than two years before it is constitutionally due. The last general election was held in June 1998, and the constitutional term of government is five years.

The upcoming election is therefore atypical, within the context of the traditionally smooth electoral processes established and maintained in the country since the attainment of universal adult suffrage in 1951.

In keeping with its firm commitment to the preservation and enhancement of representative democracy in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, the Government is determined that the March 2001 general election should be conducted with maximum professionalism and transparency, consistent with the finest traditions of the democratic process in the country and the Caribbean, of which it is justly proud.

H. E. César Gaviria

February 14, 2001

This is the first time that the OAS is being asked to provide an electoral observation mission in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and the Government looks forward to co-operating fully with such a mission.

Sincerely,



Kingsley C. A. Layne, CMG,
Ambassador
Permanent Representative