

Oct 6/90

MESSAGE TO THE PEOPLE OF ST. CROIX

GOOD AFTERNOON EVERYBODY. IT IS INDEED A PLEASURE TO BE HERE, THANKS TO THE INVITATION OF SENATOR LILLIANA BELARDO DE O'NEAL.

AS I SEE ALL OF YOU GATHERED HERE, UNITED IN ONE COMMON PURPOSE, I RECALL HOW ALL CITIZENS OF THE ISLANDS AFFECTED BY HURRICANE HUGO, JOINED TOGETHER IN HEART AND SOUL TO HELP THE LESS FORTUNATE, TO ALLEVIATE THE TRAGEDY THAT SUDDENLY LEFT SO MANY PERSONS HOMELESS AND DEPRIVED OF THEIR MOST BASIC NECESSITIES.

DURING THE AFTERMATH OF HUGO I RECEIVED A CALL FROM SENATOR BELARDO PLEADING FOR HELP FOR OUR BROTHERS IN SAINT CROIX. AS WE WERE UNDERGOING THE SAME KIND OF SUFFERING, WE UNDERSTOOD THE MAGNITUDE OF YOUR TRAGEDY. WE COULD NOT DENY YOU, OUR BROTHERS, WHATEVER HELP WE COULD OFFER. THE BONDS THAT HAVE EXISTED AMONG OUR COMMUNITIES, WERE STRENGTHENED AND PERMITTED US TO DEMONSTRATE THAT IN TIMES OF DISTRESS THERE ARE NO BOUNDARIES, NO DIFFERENCES AMONG NATIONS.

TODAY, I ASK YOU, LET US JOIN TOGETHER IN PRAYER AND THANK GOD THAT WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GRADUALLY RECOVER, THANKS TO THE EFFORTS OF ALL THOSE WHO HAVE GIVEN US THEIR HAND AND ANSWERED OUR CALL FOR HELP.

I THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY OF MEETING YOU PERSONALLY, OF BEING ABLE TO SHARE MY THOUGHTS WITH YOU. I LOOK FORWARD TO COME AGAIN TO YOUR ISLAND AND WITNESS HOW IT REGAINS THE SPLENDOR AND PROGRESS THAT WAS YOURS BEFORE HUGO.

I ALSO PRAY THAT WE KEEP OUR BROTHERHOOD, NOT ONLY WHEN TRAGEDY HITS US, BUT ALWAYS.

THANK YOU.