

ST. KITTS-NEVIS

Date of Elections: 21 June 1984

Purpose of Elections

Elections were held for all the seats in Parliament for the first time since independence was attained in September 1983*.

Characteristics of Parliament

The unicameral Parliament of St. Kitts-Nevis, the National Assembly, consists of the Speaker, 11 elected members (Representatives), 3 nominated members (Senators) and the Attorney-General, who sits *ex-officio* (unless he is nominated and thus a Senator). Senators are appointed by the Governor-General: two on the advice of the Prime Minister and one on the advice of the Leader of the Opposition. All members serve for a maximum of 5 years.

Electoral System

All citizens of the British Commonwealth who are at least 18 years old and who possess the requisite qualifications relating to residence or domicile are entitled to vote for Representatives.

Citizens of at least 25 years of age who have been born (or one of whose parents has been born) in St. Kitts-Nevis and who are domiciled there at the date of nomination for election or appointment are qualified to be members of the National Assembly. Disqualified are persons under allegiance to a foreign State, ministers or religion, undischarged bankrupts, the insane and those under sentence of death or imprisonment exceeding 12 months.

Representatives are elected in 11 single-member constituencies by simple majority vote. Parliamentary vacancies are filled through by-election or appointment, according to the case, effected within a period of 90 days.

General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

Prior to independence in 1983, general elections in February 1980 resulted in the formation of a PAM (People's Action Movement)/NRP (Nevis Reformation Party) coalition Government, headed by Prime Minister Kennedy Simmonds (PAM), although the long-governing Labour Party won 58% of the popular vote.

The 1984 elections were called eight months early. On polling day, the ruling coalition increased its majority from one seat to seven, in a Parliament expanded by two elective seats to 11. Prime Minister Simmonds subsequently formed a new Cabinet.

* See section *Parliamentary Developments*, p. 20.

Statistics

1. *Distribution of Seats in the National Assembly*

Political Group	Number of Seats
People's Action Movement (PAM)	6
Nevis Reformation Party (NRP)	3
Labour Party.	2
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	11*

* Elective seats only.