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He returned to St. Kitts in 1624 with about 45 companions, 2 thus marking the beginning of English Colonization of the West Indies.

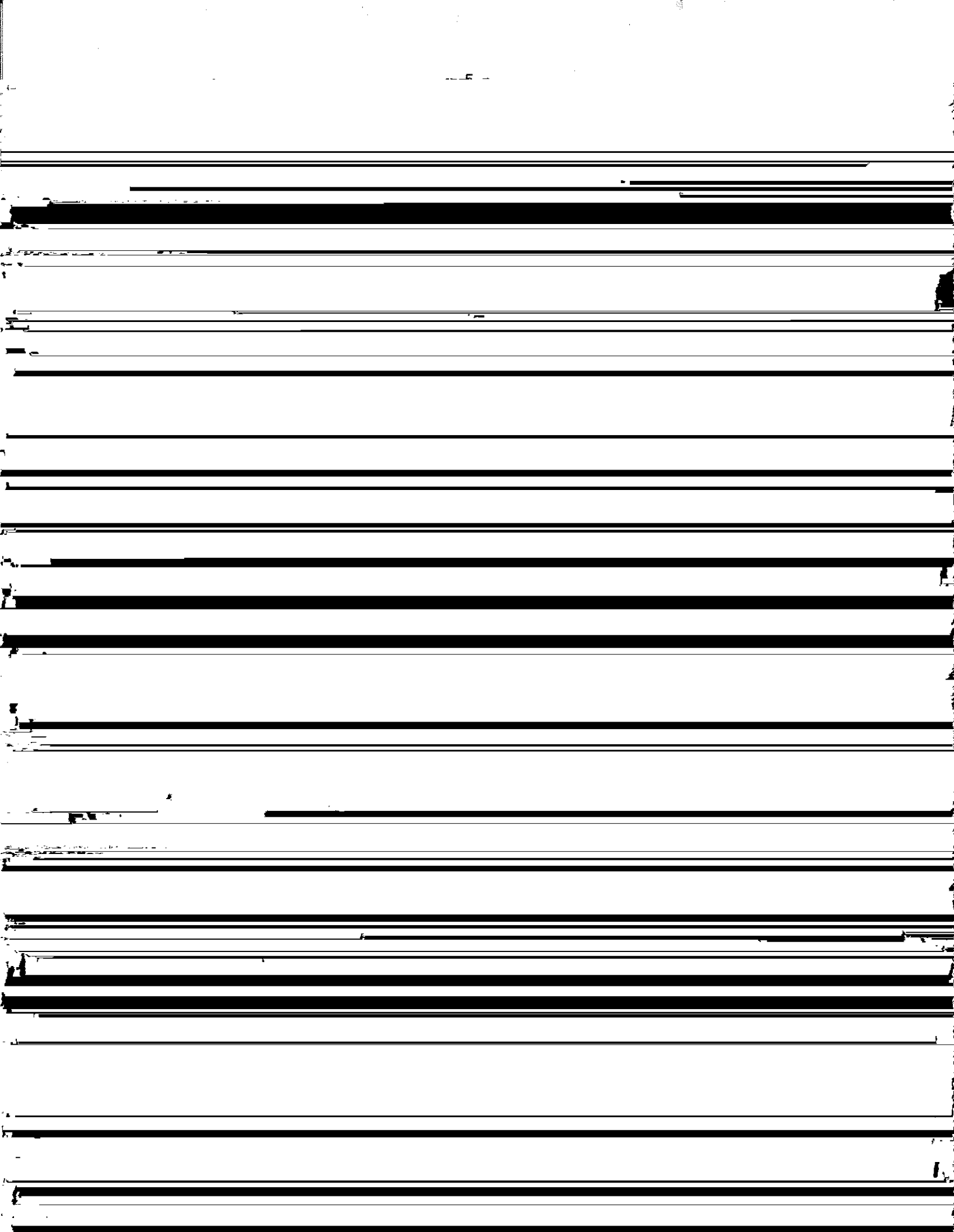
with the help of prominent members of the landed class and assumed a greater interest in the affairs of the West Indian colonies. In the next year, a royal proclamation assured the settlers that they would be "free denizens of England and ... have the same privileges to all intents and purposes as our free-born subjects of England". 10/

~~By the end of the seventeenth century, the sugar planters and~~

merchants had become men of substance and power, forming the ruling class of the Territory. They often challenged the Governor and insisted that he forward for royal assent laws passed by the House of Assembly

which they dominated as the providers of the government purse.

In the eighteenth century, when the sugar industry dominated the life of St. Kitts, the slaves far outnumbered the freemen. Because



the Governor had to exercise his powers with tact and delicacy since he was expected to maintain co-operation with the members of the Assembly, which enjoyed exclusive power to pass money bills.

In 1671, the Leeward Islands Act provided for the institution of a

appointed Governor and nominated Legislative Council. The Council consisted of civil servants as official members and planters and

theless, the changes brought about by the Act did not affect the

including St. Kitts-Nevis, to institute change by local acts, since

Nevis, could emerge as a distinct constituent unit in the larger British Caribbean Federation in 1958. Under the new constitutional arrangements, the office of the Federal Governor was abolished and an administrator

was appointed for each Territory. The new arrangement also provided for a ministerial system in St. Kitts-Nevis as well as in the other

would be exercised by an Executive Council consisting of five unofficial members.

The Constitution as amended came into force in January 1960. 25/ It abolished the power of the Chief Executive to secure the enactment of a bill rejected by the Legislative Council. It also provided for the office of the Chief Minister, to be appointed by the Administrator. An elected member who in the opinion of the Administrator was best able to command the confidence of a majority of the members in the Legis-

Under the new Constitution, the Administrator was required to act

on the advice of the Executive Council except as otherwise provided.

stated that its aim in the Caribbean was the development of a federation,
which would help the colonies to achieve

The federal Constitution provided for a federal Supreme Court



Nevis in 1816. The Anguillians, who suffered from the lack of infra-
structural development on the island, objected to internal rule by
St. Kitts under the Constitutional Order 1867. Soon after the

In early 1975, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, 55/ along with other Associated States, expressed their intentions to seek independence from the United Kingdom. In December, the heads of Governments of the

consideration, discussion and comments, proposed a federal type of

at which two thirds of the votes cast were in favour of the separation of the two islands. 68/

Annex II of the White Paper contained an outline of the constitution to be introduced at independence. The proposals provided for a Federation

opposition Labour Party had staged a walkout of an earlier meeting.

Subsequently, the territorial Government requested the administering Power to arrange for talks on the independence of St. Kitts-Nevis in 1983. This was followed by a visit of Mr. Cranley Onslow, the United Kingdom Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, to the Territory on 20 and 21 October 1982 to assess the political situation

H. Independence constitution

In December 1982, a Constitutional Conference was held in London under the chairmanship of Mr. Onslow, "to discuss and finalize an independence constitution" and "to set the date for independence". The Conference, attended by the delegations of the territorial Government and the Opposition, agreed on the basic principles of a constitution for an independent St. Kitts-Nevis and that the Territory would become

be increased prior to the next general election from seven in St. Kitts

and two in Nevis to eight in St. Kitts and three in Nevis. There would be three nominated members in the Assembly: one appointed on the advice of the Leader of the Opposition and two on the advice of the Prime Minister. The Speaker need not be a member of the Assembly. A member

of the Assembly must be a citizen 21 years of age or over. The minimum

that emerged out of disorders in the 1930s. The rise of labour to mass movement created political awareness among the masses and brought such leaders as Robert Llewellyn Bradshaw and M.C. Paul Southwell to national and regional prominence. These leaders organized the first political party in St. Kitts, known as Labour Party, with the help of the Trade and Labour Union. 94/

in January 1979, while the second seat had become vacant upon the death of Premier Southwell.

The last general election held in February 1980 (nearly one year before it was constitutionally due), resulted in the defeat of the Labour Party which won only four of the nine legislative seats. PAM, led by Mr. Simmonds, won three seats and NRP, led by Mr. Simeon Daniel, won two seats from Nevis. However, the Labour Party won 58 per cent of the votes cast in St. Kitts, compared with 42 per cent for PAM, while NRP won 84 per cent of the votes cast in Nevis, compared with 16 per cent for the Labour Party. Following the announcement of the election results the leaders of PAM and NRP formed a coalition whereupon

Mr. Simmonds was appointed Premier of St. Kitts-Nevis, and Mr. Moore Leader of the Opposition. 98/

V. ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS

Since the early days of colonization, the economy of St. Kitts-Nevis has depended to a large extent on agriculture. In recent years, however, construction, tourism and government expenditure have also

The Government's developmental efforts have been assisted by
CARTOM of which St. Kitts Nevis has been a member since 1974. CARTOM

the economic integration and co-ordination of foreign policy of its
members. 1957. In pursuance of the basic economic objectives. CARTOM

Education is free and compulsory for primary and secondary school students. 106/ There are 35 public schools, of which 19 primary and 4 secondary schools are located on St. Kitts and 10 primary and 2 secondary schools are on Nevis. These schools are wholly maintained by the Government. 107/ In the academic year 1978/79, there were 6,442 students in primary schools and 4,797 students in secondary schools. In addition, there were 1,441 students in 11 private schools.

With respect to higher education, students from the Territory

States in association with the United Kingdom) including St. Kitts-Nevis, the Special Committee in 1968 stated that it regretted the refusal of the administering Power to co-operate with the Committee in its efforts to obtain more complete information on the Territories, including St. Kitts-Nevis. The Committee, considering that the information at its disposal had not enabled it to assess the actual situation in the Territory, requested the United Kingdom to enable the Committee to send a visiting mission to the Territory for the purpose of acquiring first-hand information on the situation in the Territory and of assessing the needs and wishes of the people. However, no visiting mission has been invited to the Territory.

B. Action by the General Assembly

The General Assembly considers the question of St. Kitts-Nevis