

News Items and Public Crime Summary for Week Ending November 13, 2010

Aruba – TIEA Signed With UK

Aruba signed a Tax Information Exchange Agreement (TIEA) with the United Kingdom (UK) on Friday. TIEAs regulate a framework under which nations will exchange information on tax matters in order to prevent tax fraud, financing of terrorism and money laundering. (Various media)

Statia - NuStar Energy Wants to Build Tank Farm

San Antonio-based NuStar Energy L.P. which operates a storage and transshipment of crude oil and petroleum products facility in St. Eustatius wants to build a tank farm to improve its capacity on the Island. The entire construction project would include 15 to 40 tanks and a new jetty. Construction of the new tanks would provide 25 to 40 new, full-time jobs and 250 to 500 jobs in construction, which may be finished by 2013, a spokesperson said. NuStar provides jobs for 139 people and contributes to 38.5% of the island's Gross Domestic Product and 49.8% of government expenditures. (Daily Herald)

Curacao – Coalition Presents Governing Program

The Curacao MFK/PS/MAN coalition presented a summary of its governing program. The coalition plans to institute a civil guard program to assist the local police in the fight against crime. Neighborhood development and improving the quality of living by lowering the cost of living are important topics. An essential target is minimizing Dutch influence and exploring avenues to independence. Papiamentu is the new official language. The government wants to play a pro-active, more autonomous role, in the regional foreign policy of the Kingdom. The entire plan is not supported by a budget. (Various media)

Caribbean - Operation Deux Tricolores Military Exercise

The combined Franco-Dutch annual military exercise Deux Tricolores 2010 will take place during the next two weeks in Curacao and Aruba. The operation in the Caribbean has gradually grown into a 'Joint Combined Exercise' with participation from regional countries. This year's exercise will include the U.S. Marine Corps. A special training exercise in the Koraal Tabak area will take place November 14-20. (Various media)

Curacao - Two Dutch Military Arrested For Drugs

Two Dutch military personnel were arrested on drug charges, past Monday. A Royal Dutch Navy spokesperson said that the suspects have been questioned, but would not release any additional information in the interest of the ongoing investigation (Various media)

Aruba – U.S. Tourism Declined In August

The Aruba Central Bank announced that the total of stay-over tourists decreased by 2.6% in August 2010. The decline is predominantly attributed to the U.S.-market (-9.0%), but tourism from the Netherlands (-5.8%) and Colombia (-13.2%) also dropped compared to August 2009. Tourism from Brazil is booming. (Various media)

Curacao - PM Schotte: Oil drilling documents found

Political discussions on drilling for oil in Curaçao's territorial waters have heated up again. PM Schotte announced that the government received documents showing that contracts for research into and drilling for oil – signed in the past – have been extended. The opposition has denied allegations from the government that there are signed contracts to drill for oil. Schotte did not wish to give more details and said he would provide Parliament with more information during a public meeting. Parliament opposition member Glenn Sulvaran (political party PAR) was unhappy with Schotte's statement and said it was "the umpteenth time" the PM announced something that "twisted reality". Sulvaran explained that the documents regard contracts on research into the possible existence of oil, and certainly not about drilling for oil (Amigoe, Antilliaans Dagblad).

Curacao - Political party PAR renamed

Political party PAR has changed its name from Party for a Restructured Antilles to the Real Alternative Party ("Partido Alternativo Real") during its November 9 members' meeting. The PAR abbreviation has remained unchanged (Amigoe, Extra, Antilliaans Dagblad, La Prensa).

Statia - Statia-America Day celebration

St. Eustatius will celebrate 234 years of Statia-America Day under the theme "234 years, Statia raise your glass and have a blast" next week with various activities. There will be food, as well as arts and crafts for sale, and a series of local performances and international bands, including artists from the Netherlands. The festivities will come to a close on November 16 at midnight with a fireworks display. The U.S. Vice Consul and Coast Guard vessel Farallon will attend some Statia Day events (Daily Herald).

CURAÇAO

Crime November 5 – 11

On November 7, a female pedestrian was robbed in Buena Vista. On November 10, a bakery in Suffisant was robbed. The same afternoon, a grocery store in Koraal Specht was robbed (Extra).

ARUBA

Crime November 5 – 11

On November 7, a lottery selling business in Santa Cruz was robbed. On November 10, an elderly man was robbed near his home in Brazil (Diario Aruba).

ST. MAARTEN

Crime November 5 – 11

On November 11, two youngsters were shot and injured by a scooter rider in Cul-de-Sac. The motive for the shooting was unknown (Daily Herald).

"The Weekly Press Summary is a compilation of stories running in the Dutch Caribbean press that is intended to alert readers about items of interest to them. There is no interpretation or verification of the facts contained therein."