



Office of  
the Prime Minister

**REMARKS**

**BY**

**PRIME MINISTER HON. PHILIP E. DAVIS QC, MP**

**ON THE APPOINTMENT OF**

**MR. STAN SMITH AS AMBASSADOR TO THE**

**UNITED NATIONS;**

**AND**

**MR. ELLISON RAHMING AS AMBASSADOR TO THE**

**REPUBLIC OF CUBA**

**TUESDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY 2022**

Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Good Afternoon.

At last week's announcement of  
ambassadorial appointments, I spoke briefly  
of some of the foreign policy priorities of our  
Administration, as outlined in our campaign  
document, 'A Blueprint For Change'.

We will maintain the long-standing  
commitment of earlier Bahamian

administrations to strengthen commercial, economic, political and cultural ties with other nations. This is especially true in respect of our nearest neighbours in the region.

We especially want to improve ties in trade and investment, and have therefore committed to appoint Trade & Investment Attaches in our missions.

In the same way that we are keen to work in partnership with the Bahamian people to secure a better life for all, we are also keen to

secure meaningful partnerships with those countries with whom we share mutual objectives.

In order support this objective, my government is also committed to further enhance the expertise and reach of the members of our Foreign Service. The establishment of a Foreign Service Institute at the University Of the Bahamas therefore remains a key priority.

Our two ambassadors being presented today, take on key responsibilities in that service.

Our relationship with fellow members of the United Nations, and that with the government of the Republic of Cuba, are among the top priorities.

I am therefore delighted to introduce you to our two newest ambassadorial appointments.

Mr. Stan Smith is a graduate of the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, Law School, and the Eugene Dupuch Bar program.

He was called both to the Bar of The Bahamas and that of Barbados, and practiced law in Barbados for 10 years, up until 2015.

He served as Bahamas Ambassador-at-Large from 2015 – 2017, and headed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Legal Division during that time.

He also contributed to the Ministry's UN teams on Human Rights; and provided general foreign policy development support.

Mr. Smith most recently served as a Senior Personal Assistant to former Prime Minister Rt. Hon. Perry Christie.

We look forward to Mr. Smith distinguishing himself further as he takes on the role of Ambassador to the United Nations.

The United Nations is the centrepiece of the diplomacy of The Bahamas and in one sense is our most important post.

When Sir Lynden Pindling spoke as we first took our seat there in 1973, he pledged our country to multi lateralism, the belief in self-determination, the support for territorial integrity and the non-interference in the affairs of other countries.

He pledged to be friends with those who befriended us but to stand up for democratic values and Christian principles.



That is the remit that Ambassador Stan Smith carries to New York.

As a small country, we cannot be as others are in every country but every country is in New York. It will be his responsibility to interface with all countries, mainly within the multilateral context but also in the bilateral context.

I have no doubt with his education, his experience and his keen analytical skills that he is the right person for the job.

His Excellency Dr. Elliston Rahming is a former Bahamian Diplomat, Criminologist, Politician and Educator. He has had a long and distinguished career in public service, having served as Special Assistant to two Bahamian Prime Ministers.

He has also served as Consultant Advisor on Crime within the Ministry of National Security, as Commissioner of Corrections, and previously

as Ambassador to the Organization of American States (the OAS) and Bahamas Ambassador to the United Nations.

Dr. Rahming also holds strong academic credentials, having served as an Adjunct Professor at the University of The Bahamas, Omega College and Sojourner Douglass College. He is also the founder of the R.E.S.P.E.C.T. Academy (now Westminster College) in Nassau.

As Ambassador to Cuba, Dr. Rahming will also bring political experience to the role. For three years he served as Secretary-General of the Progressive Liberal Party, and was a member of The Bahamas Senate from 1992-1997.

Dr Elliston Rahming takes up his third diplomatic appointment as Ambassador to Cuba. He carries with him the accumulated

skills of the balancing act that is required in the context of the Americas.

But for the sinking of the HMBS Flamingo in 1980, relations with Cuba have been excellent. The Cuban President has apologized for the sinking and expressed his deep regret over it.

The Flamingo was a lesson in why neighbours should not allow ideology to create flashpoints. We have since that time cooperation on many fronts:

education, migration, fisheries, tourism,  
health care and border controls.

We have opposed the embargo against their  
country.

We have also spoken to our own values but  
this had never interfered with our practical  
cooperation.

Our citizens travel there in the hundreds  
every year for tourism, health care and

education. Unfortunately, scores have been and are imprisoned there.

It is also a hardship post given the ideological rifts between themselves and our neighbours to the north. You will have to manage all of this.

I am happy that you are able to serve and I am sure that your incisive skills will serve our country well in Havana.

We are thrilled that two such distinguished gentlemen, who are among the best of us, will represent our country on the world stage.

I look forward to working with them and wish them every success.

Godspeed gentlemen.

I know you will do well!

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