



THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20202

-BEC - 4 2003

SENT BY FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

The Honorable Antoine J.M. Solagnier
Lt. Governor of the Island Territory of Saba
Power St. 1, The Bottom
Saba, Netherlands Antilles

Dear Mr. Solagnier:

On September 11-12, 2003, the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation (NCFMEA) met in Washington, D.C., to review materials from 14 countries, including the report submitted by the Accreditation Commission on Colleges of Medicine (Accreditation Commission) on behalf of the Government of Saba regarding the Commission's accreditation activities involving Saba University School of Medicine. At the meeting, the NCFMEA members also heard testimony from Dr. Tony Peacock of the Accreditation Commission. His testimony was most helpful and the NCFMEA members wish to thank him for his participation in the meeting.

I am pleased to inform you that the NCFMEA, based on the information and testimony submitted by the Accreditation Commission on your behalf, formally accepted the report. The NCFMEA also expressed appreciation for the opportunity for Dr. Raymond Caron, Dr. Scottie Pierce, and Mr. Ron Lipton to observe Accreditation Commission reviews of two hospitals at which Saba University medical students receive clinical clerkship training. The members' observation of the September 8th review of Union Memorial Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland, and the September 9th review of Holy Cross Hospital in Silver Spring, Maryland, increased their understanding of the process used by the Accreditation Commission to evaluate clinical sites.

In addition, the NCFMEA requested that the Government of Saba provide a full report on its accreditation activities involving Saba University for review at the September 2004 NCFMEA meeting. The purpose of the full report is to provide the NCFMEA with a summary of the activities of the Government of the Island Territory of Saba and the Accreditation Commission involving the accreditation of Saba University, including the following information:

- *Overview of accreditation activities:* A summary of key activities by the Accreditation Commission during the period covering April 2003 – May 2004, such as accreditation reviews conducted, meetings held and accreditation decisions reached, accreditation conferences or training sessions held.
- *Laws and regulations:* Any changes since March 2003 in your country's laws or regulations affecting the accreditation of Saba University or any changes in your

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government's recognition of the Accreditation Commission to evaluate and accredit Saba University.

- *Standards, processes and procedures:* Any changes since March 2003 in the accreditation standards, processes or procedures that the Accreditation Commission uses to evaluate and accredit Saba University.
- *Schedule of upcoming accreditation activities:* A listing of Accreditation Commission meetings and listing of on-site visits to Saba University or to its clinical clerkship facilities planned for July 2004 – June 2005.

Please send the items requested above by June 15, 2004 to the Director of the Accrediting and State Liaison Staff at the address below:

Mr. John Barth
Director, Accreditation and State Liaison Staff
U.S. Department of Education
1990 K Street, NW – Room 7105
Washington, DC 20006-8509
U.S.A.

If you have any questions regarding the information requested, please feel free to contact Mr. Barth at (202) 219-7011 (telephone), (202) 219-7005 (fax), or john.barth@ed.gov (e-mail).

The Executive Director of the NCFMEA, Bonnie LeBold, will contact the Accreditation Commission in the late spring or early summer to provide information regarding the next September 2004 NCFMEA meeting. In the interim, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. LeBold at (202) 219-7009 (telephone), (202) 219-7008 (fax), or bonnie.lebold@ed.gov (e-mail).

Thank you very much for providing information regarding your country's accreditation of its medical school. The NCFMEA members and I very much appreciate your interest and assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Rod Paige

cc: Ms. Lisa Hassell
Commissioner of Health and Education
Government of the Island Territory of Saba

Dr. Tony Peacock, Commissioner
Accreditation Commission on Colleges of Medicine