

James Mitchell

Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines

James Mitchell was born on May 15, 1931. He attended the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture in Trinidad and the University of British Columbia.

A member of Parliament since 1966, Mr. Mitchell served as Premier from 1972 to 1974 and formed the New Democratic Party in 1975. He became Prime Minister after the July 1984 election and remained in that post following his party's victories in the next three elections. Mr. Mitchell has been a leading figure in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States.

Mr. Mitchell has three children.

Rinaldo Ronald Venetiaan

President of Suriname

Rinaldo Ronald Venetiaan was born in Paramaribo, Suriname, on June 18, 1936. He graduated in mathematics and physics from the University of Leiden in the Netherlands.

Mr. Venetiaan worked in the Netherlands for three years before returning to Suriname, where he was a mathematics teacher, department head, and principal at three teachers' colleges between 1964 and 1973.

Later posts for Mr. Venetiaan included Minister of Education, head of the Bureau for Scientific Education and Research, research adviser at the General Statistics Bureau, and executive member of UNESCO.

In 1991, Mr. Venetiaan became President of Suriname, a position that he held until 1996. He spent the next few years as a member of the National Assembly before becoming President again in August 2000.

Mr. Venetiaan is married and has four children.