



Holland's QUEEN BEATRIX with President of the Princess Juliana International Airport company, EUGENE HOLLIDAY, centre and St Kitts Prime Minister DENZIL DOUGLAS at last Friday's official opening of the new RBT-financed US\$100 million airport terminal in St Maarten. (See Story on page 7)

PHOTO: WESLEY GIBBINES

Will RBT remain locally owned?

WOULD you be surprised if you woke up one morning and read (on the front page of the Guardian, of course) that one of this country's indigenous banks had been acquired by a foreign bank?

If you work in the financial services industry, you would probably not be surprised because there has been a great deal of talk about the possibility (even the likelihood) that a bank that is now owned by T&T



ANTHONY WILSON
ANOTHER EDITOR

isation, it is much easier for one bank to acquire another. This is how RBT grew to become a regional powerhouse—acquiring banks in Jamaica, the Dutch Caribbean and throughout the Eastern Caribbean. Globalisation has meant both the availability of much more capital for foreign acquisitions and the lowering of the barriers to entry throughout the world. When I put the question of the pos

Queen Beatrix opens new airport

PHILIPSBURG-DUTCH Queen Beatrix has inaugurated a new terminal at the airport in Dutch St Maarten during her tour of the Netherlands Antilles.

The 68-year-old queen opened on Friday the four-storey, US\$100 million terminal at the Princess Juliana International Airport. It can handle 2.5 million passengers a year.

Queen Beatrix's visit followed a long-awaited agreement signed on November 3, by the Dutch government and the Netherlands Antilles to grant autonomy to the Caribbean territories of Curacao and St Maarten, and giving smaller islands in the group the status of Dutch municipalities. (AP)