

# Dutch museum experts discuss history on Saba

SABA--Dutch museum experts spent Sunday afternoon talking with Sabans about the island's culture and history. Co-directors of the new Dutch Historical Museum Valentyn Byvanck and Eric Schilp were accompanied by Gert Oostindie, Director of the Dutch Tropical Institute and an expert on Dutch colonial history.

In his introductory remarks, Schilp told the group of eleven local cultural representatives gathered at Queen's Gardens Resort that the Dutch parliament felt that youth was not knowledgeable on the history of the Netherlands. "You have to know where you have come from to know who you are," Schilp said.

He said that history was no longer taught as a separate school subject and had therefore lost ground as an area of interest for students. Also on Saba, history is now taught as part of a social studies course and not as a separate subject.

Schilp said it was documented that children spent as much as seven hours a day interfacing with some sort of electronic media, whether it be the Internet or television. He said that the new



From left, Dutch museum experts Valentyn Byvanck, Gert Oostindie and Eric Schilp.

ments needed better preservation. With construction and exhibit just now coming on the drawing board, he said in the Dutch Antilles, and they promised to return for more in-depth collaboration.

Byvanck said the museum would be located in a new building in the city of Arn-

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