

**ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SURINAME
HIS EXCELLENCY RUNALDO RONALD VENETIAAN ON
THE OCCASSION OF THE PRESENTATION OF
THE LETTERS OF CREDENCE BY
THE AMBASSADOR OF GREECE,
HIS EXCELLENCY ANDONIOS NICOLAIDIS
ON 11 JULY 2008**

AMBASSADOR,

IT IS WITH PLEASURE THAT I WELCOME YOU AND ACCEPT THE LETTERS ACCREDITING YOU AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC TO THE REPUBLIC OF SURINAME YOUR ACCREDITATION REAFFIRMS THE GOOD AND CORDIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN SURINAME AND GREECE AND THE DESIRE OF OUR GOVERNMENTS TO ENHANCE THE BILATERAL RELATIONS.

AMBASSADOR,

THE EFFORTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO BUILD UP STRUCTURES OF ECONOMIC INTEGRATION WITHIN THE RESPECTIVE GEOGRAPHICAL REGIONS ARE IN CONCURRENCE WITH THE NEEDS OF THIS ERA OF GLOBALIZATION.

ALTHOUGH THE ROAD AHEAD IS DIFFICULT AND FULL OF HARDSHIP, I SHARE THE VIEW THAT INSPIRED BY COMMON IDEAS AND VALUES THE WORLD CAN BECOME A BETTER PLACE FOR ALL MANKIND.

IN THIS LONG JOURNEY SURINAME AND GREECE HAVE THEIR SPECIFIC FOCUS OF ACTION, THEIR SPECIFIC REGIONAL FRAMEWORK IN MAKING THIS OBJECTIVE TANGIBLE.

SURINAME IS INVOLVED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY, WHILE GREECE IS DOING ITS SHARE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE EUROPEAN UNION.

BOTH COMMUNITIES HAVE A LONG HISTORY OF COOPERATION AND PARTNERSHIP UNDER DIFFERENT HEADINGS OF OPERATION, ENTERING NOW A NEW STAGE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS.

DURING ALL THOSE YEARS A COMMONALITY OF VALUES AND PURPOSE HAS EMERGED BETWEEN OUR REGIONS. INDEED, SURINAME AND GREECE SHARE BASIC PRINCIPLES, LIKE HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY, ECONOMIC PROSPERITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, WHICH GUIDE OUR COMMON ENDEAVOURS. NOTWITHSTANDING THE GEOGRAPHICAL DISTANCE SEPARATING US, OUR GOVERNMENTS TOOK THE DECISION TO EMBARK ON A TRAIL WE ARE CARVING TOGETHER THEREBY GIVING A SPECIAL MEANING TO THE FRIENDLY RELATIONS EXISTING BETWEEN OUR NATIONS.

SURINAME HOLDS THE GREEK NATION AND ITS RICH TRADITIONS IN HIGH ESTEEM. GREECE WAS THE CRADLE OF THE VALUES OF THE WESTERN CIVILIZATION, WHICH WE ALSO CHERISH. DURING THE COURSE OF ITS HISTORY THE GREEK PEOPLE HAS PUT UP FIERCE RESISTANCE AGAINST OPPRESSION AND SUBMISSION TO VICTORIOUSLY EMERGE AS A STRONG DEMOCRACY BECOMING A MODEL FOR OTHERS.

SURINAME WILL CONTINUE TO INTENSIFY THE RELATIONS
OF COOPERATION WITH GREECE

AMBASSADOR,

I AM CONVINCED THAT YOUR EXPERIENCE WILL ENABLE
YOU TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN THE RELATIONS
BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES.

I WISH YOU SUCCESS IN THE PERFORMANCE OF YOUR
MISSION.

THE GOVERNMENT OF SURINAME WILL GIVE YOU EVERY
SUPPORT.
