

**ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SURINAME,  
HIS EXCELLENCY RUNALDO RONALD VENETIAAN,  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS BY  
THE AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA,  
HIS EXCELLENCY KANWAL JIT SINGH SODHI,  
7 NOVEMBER 2008**

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MR. AMBASSADOR,

IT IS A PLEASURE FOR ME TO WELCOME YOU, ALSO ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SURINAME, AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA TO THE REPUBLIC OF SURINAME.

I THANK YOU FOR THE GREETINGS AND BEST WISHES YOU HAVE EXTENDED TO ME ON BEHALF OF PRESIDENT PRATIBHA DEVISINGH PATIL.

THE PRESENTATION OF YOUR LETTERS OF CREDENCE CLEARLY EXPRESSES THE WILL OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES TO FURTHER DEEPEN AND BROADEN THE EXISTING BILATERAL RELATIONS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF OUR FOREIGN POLICY. MY GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO CONTINUE THE FRIENDLY AND CONSTRUCTIVE COOPERATION WITH INDIA.

MR. AMBASSADOR,

AT THE MULTILATERAL LEVEL OUR TWO COUNTRIES MAINTAIN GOOD COLLABORATIVE RELATIONS EVIDENCED BY THE JOINT PARTICIPATION AND COORDINATION IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE UN AND NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT IN WHICH GLOBAL ISSUES, INCLUDING THE MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY AND PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE, ARE DEALT WITH.

THE REPUBLIC OF SURINAME IS ALSO ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE CARICOM AND THE ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN STATES AND IN THE PROCESS OF THE SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS AND THE FORMATION OF THE SOUTH AMERICAN COMMUNITY OF NATIONS.

MR. AMBASSADOR,

SURINAME ALSO PLACES EMPHASIS UPON RELATIONS BEYOND THE LIMITS OF THE AMERICAN HEMISPHERE, MORE IN PARTICULAR WITH THE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN OF ITS PEOPLE.

IN THIS REGARD THE REPUBLIC OF SURINAME HIGHLY APPRECIATES THE PRESENT STATE OF AFFAIRS AND COOPERATION WITH THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA IN THE CULTURAL REALM AS WELL AS IN THE FIELDS OF ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENTS.

AS YOU ARE AWARE, THE FOURTH JOINT COMMISSION MEETING WAS HELD IN PARAMARIBO IN MAY OF THIS YEAR. THE MEETINGS OF THE JOINT COMMISSION OFFERED AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE THE MANY POSSIBILITIES FOR COOPERATION IN THE FIELDS OF TRADE, INFRASTRUCTURE, ENERGY, MINING, EDUCATION AND CULTURE. TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE HUGE POTENTIAL OF SURINAME AND INDIA WITH RESPECT TO NATURAL RESOURCES, TRADE AND TECHNOLOGY, THERE IS INDEED MUCH WHICH CAN BE DONE TO BROADEN AND INTENSIFY THE SCOPE OF COOPERATION, IN WHICH THE PRIVATE AND THE PUBLIC SECTOR HAVE A SIGNIFICANT ROLE TO PLAY.

THE GOVERNMENT OF SURINAME HIGHLY APPRECIATES THE VARIOUS CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMMES WITH THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA, AIMED AT CAPACITY BUILDING AND HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN SEVERAL FIELDS. IN THIS REGARD, I WOULD LIKE TO MENTION THE PARTICIPATION OF SURINAMESE CITIZENS FROM VARIOUS DISCIPLINES IN TRAINING COURSES, OFFERED BY INDIA, WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE INDIAN TECHNICAL & ECONOMIC COOPERATION (ITEC)/ (SCAAP) AND THE PARTICIPATION IN THE PROFESSIONAL COURSES FOR FOREIGN DIPLOMATS (PCFD).

MR. AMBASSADOR,

I AM CONVINCED THAT YOUR KNOWLEDGE AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE WILL ENABLE YOU TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS STRENGTHENING THE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES. YOU MAY REST ASSURED OF THE SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SURINAME. I WISH YOU EVERY SUCCESS IN THE FULFILLMENT OF YOUR MISSION.

PLEASE CONVEY MY REGARDS AND BEST WISHES TO YOUR PRESIDENT, HER EXCELLENCY PRATIBA DEVISINGH PATIL, AND TO THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA.