

**ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF SURINAME  
HIS EXCELLENCY RUNALDO RONALD VENETIAAN  
AT THE OPENING OF THE SYMPOSIUM ON  
“LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN RELATIONS WITHIN AN  
EVOLVING GLOBAL CONTEXT”  
FRIDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2008**

---

**Ministers,**

**Members of the National Assembly,**

**Members of the State Council,**

**Members of the Court of Justice and Members of other High  
Offices of the Republic,**

**Chairman and other Members of the Board of the Anton De  
Kom University of Suriname,**

**Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences,**

**Chairman Kriesnadath Nandoe and Members of the Board of the  
Institute for International Relations,**

**Members of the Corps Diplomatique,**

**Assistant Secretary General of the OAS, Mr. Albert Ramdin,**

**Lecturers, students, invited guests,**

**Mister Chairman,**

**Today, perhaps even more than before, the existence and development direction of every independent nation are very much influenced by its international relations. Managing the effects of interdependence on bilateral, regional and global levels, is among the most important challenges facing all governments. These challenges are mainly evident in sectors such as the economy, health, environment, human rights and diversity. The impact of global issues like the food, energy and financial crises, the safeguarding of all existing forms of life, climate change, the clash between world cultures and world religions, transnational crime and security, is illustrative of the influence of external developments on the nations in the world.**

**The Government of Suriname very much appreciates the work being done by the “Institute of International Relations”, together with its national, regional and extra-regional partners. In this respect, we are pleased to make special mention of the collaboration between the “Institute of International Relations” of the University of the West Indies and the “Institute of Graduate Studies” of the Anton de Kom University of Suriname.**

**Suriname’s history has placed the country in an isolated position in relation to the Caribbean community and Latin**

**America. But our history has not prevented us from establishing relations with the English-speaking Caribbean and Haiti, nor with Latin America. On the contrary, Suriname decided to be part of both Caricom and the Union of South American Nations. Accordingly, my Government and also the private sector of Suriname are obviously very much interested in this symposium on “Latin American and Caribbean Relations within an Evolving Global Context”.**

**The countries of our Latin American and Caribbean Region are facing daunting challenges as they find their way into the global markets. I, therefore, expect that your presentations and discussions today and tomorrow will contribute not only to identifying problems and constraints that lie ahead of us, but also point to possible solutions.**

**It is with this in mind that I declare the symposium on “Latin American and Caribbean Relations within an Evolving Global Context” open.**

\*\*\*\*\*