

**Address by the President of the Republic of Suriname
H.E. Runaldo Ronald Venetiaan
on the occasion of the conferment of a decoration on
H.E. Ambassador Ricardo Luiz Viana de Carvalho
of the Federative Republic of Brazil
Friday, 15 July 2005**

Your Excellency Ambassador Ricardo Luiz Viana de Carvalho and
Mrs. Marina Lidia Wodtke de Carvalho
Mr. Chairman of the National Assembly S. Paul Somohardjo
Mr. Vice-President Jules Ajodhia
Members of the Council of Ministers
Members of the Corps Diplomatique
Dignitaries
Special Invitees
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Between the Republic of Suriname and the Federative Republic of Brazil there exists a close bond that dates from before Suriname's independence, now nearly 30 years ago. Over the years, the relations between the two countries have grown stronger.

At the regional level as well, our two countries have a good rapport with each other by way of the participation in the current integration process of South America, in the priming of which Brazil has played a special pioneering role.

Ambassador Ricardo de Carvalho,

Today we pay tribute to you for your abiding efforts to enhance the bilateral relations between the Republic of Suriname and the Federative Republic of Brazil.

A milestone in our relations during your tenure was the visit of President Lula to Suriname in February last. The visit had a dual purpose. Suriname had the opportunity to have in-depth talks with President Lula and his delegation on bilateral matters, while within the context of the then ongoing CARICOM summit your President was offered the opportunity to exchange thoughts with the CARICOM Heads of Government on possible forms of cooperation between South America, more in particular Mercosur and the CARICOM member countries.

You, as Ambassador of Brazil, have made a constructive contribution to the preparations for this visit.

Some of your accomplishments during your tenure added new dimensions to the relations between our two countries and these new dimensions have developed into cooperation in various fields. I here should like to highlight:

- your active participation in the deliberations and the conclusion of the agreement on rice exports from Suriname to Brazil, thus providing us with an additional market for our rice;
- your concern with your fellow-countrymen in Suriname and with Surinamese nationals in Brazil, which has led to the conclusion of the agreements of mutual assistance in legal matters;
- your efforts towards the signing of a **Protocol of Intentions** in the Health Sector;
- your efforts aimed at enhancing the political dialogue between Suriname and Brazil, rewarded with the signing of a Memorandum on Political Consultation;
- your involvement in strengthening cooperation at the private sector level, resulting in mutual visits of the business communities.

These are just a few of the important achievements in the relations between Suriname and Brazil, and many of them may be accredited to you.

Ambassador Ricardo Luiz Viana de Carvalho,

The Government and people of Suriname appreciate the important contribution you have rendered to strengthen the bonds between Suriname and Brazil. In recognition of this contribution, I have the pleasure to announce that the Government of Suriname has decided to appoint you Bearer of the Grand Ribbon of the Honorary Order of the Palm.

With this mark of appreciation, Mr. Ambassador, we honour and thank also your wife and family who have supported you all the way.
