

**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 PARAGUAY, HER EXCELLENCY ANA FIGUEREDO,
ON 14 OCTOBER 2005**

Madam Ambassador,

It is a great pleasure for me to extend, also on behalf of the Government and people of the Republic of Suriname, a warm welcome to you, as Non-Resident Ambassador Extra-ordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Paraguay.

The world we are living in today is faced with enormous challenges, because of the changes and developments in the world order. To give a suitable answer in this regard the foreign policy of the Republic of Suriname aims at establishing relations with friendly nations on the bilateral, regional and multilateral levels.

Madam Ambassador,

The diplomatic relations between the Republic of Suriname and the Republic of Paraguay were established on 20 November 1992 and have been maintained steadily ever since.

The presentation of your letters of credence serves as a reaffirmation of the good relations between our two countries and provides a positive basis for their further development.

This basis is consolidated by the accreditation of our Ambassador in the Federative Republic of Brazil to the Government of the Republic of Paraguay.

Madam Ambassador,

The fact that both our countries are members of the United Nations, the Organization of American States, the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, the Initiative for the Integration of Regional Infrastructure in South America, the Latin American Economic System (SELA), and are committed to the decision of the Summit of the Americas, and more recently the South American Community of Nations, shows that both our nations are heading in the same direction in this era of globalization.

Furthermore, it is worth mentioning that between Mercosur and Suriname endeavors are made to intensify cooperation. In this regard the Government of Suriname acknowledges the approval of the Government of Paraguay, member state of Mercosur, at the conclusion of the “Partial Scope Agreement concerning Tariff Preferences Concessions for the Rice Trade between the Republic of Suriname and the Federative Republic of Brazil”.

Allow me to recall the exploratory deliberations of our respective Governments on the abolition of visa requirements to facilitate entry into our respective countries by our nationals. With the recent developments within the South American Community of Nations concerning the exemption of visa and passport requirements for nationals, this issue may still remain on our bilateral agenda.

Madam Ambassador,

I am convinced that with your knowledge and experience you will be able to contribute to the intentions of our two countries to further deepen the bilateral relations. I may assure you that Suriname will support your efforts in this regard.

I wish you every success with your career and your tenure as Ambassador of the Republic of Paraguay.

Madam Ambassador,

In conclusion, I should like to ask you to convey the warm greetings of the Government and the people of the Republic of Suriname to His Excellency President Nicanor Duarte Frutos and to the people of Paraguay.

I thank you.
