

Address by the President of the Republic of Suriname,
H. E. Runaldo Ronald Venetiaan,
on the occasion of the presentation of credentials
by the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the
Republic of India,
H. E. Ashok Kumar Sharma,
on Friday, 30 September 2005

Mr. Ambassador,

Also on behalf of the Government and people of the Republic of Suriname, I am pleased to welcome you as the representative of the Republic of India.

I thank you for the greetings and good wishes you have extended to me on behalf of President Abdul Kalam.

The presentation of your Letters of Credence once again accentuates the will of our two countries to further deepen and broaden the existing bilateral relations.

The Surinamese Government has just commenced a new term of office. My Government intends to continue the friendly and constructive cooperation with India.

Mr. Ambassador,

I may inform you that we are actively engaged in organizations such as the CARICOM and the Association of Caribbean States, the process of the Summit of the Americas and the formation of the South American Community of Nations. These are all efforts within the regional integration process.

However, Suriname also puts emphasis on relations beyond the limits of the American hemisphere, more in particular with the countries of origin of its people.

So Suriname welcomes the establishment of the India-CARICOM joint commission, which undoubtedly advances the process of South-South cooperation, but we especially promote the work of the Suriname-India Joint Commission.

We are confident that the great potential of economic, commercial and cultural cooperation that exists between our two countries will be materialized through joint efforts of the private and public sector within the mechanism of this Suriname-India Joint Commission.

Suriname also appreciates the technical assistance rendered by the Indian Government. In light of the good experiences we have had so far in this regard, Suriname invites investors to explore the possibilities of cooperation in the fields of Information Technology, small and medium-size industry, health care, agriculture, and other areas of cooperation.

Mr. Ambassador,

I am convinced that your knowledge and experience will enable you to further strengthen the relations between our countries. I may assure you of the support of the Government of the Republic of Suriname in this endeavour. I wish you every success in fulfilling your mission.

Please convey my regards and good wishes to your President, His Excellency Abdul Kalam, the Government and people of the Republic of India.
