

**ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SURINAME
H.E. RUNALDO. R. VENETIAAN
ON THE OCCASION OF THE CELEBRATION OF THE 182nd
INDEPENDENCE DAY OF THE FEDERATIVE REPUBLIC OF BRAZIL
SEPTEMBER 7 2004**

*Mr. Ambassador and Mrs Carvalho
Members of the Council of Ministers
Members of the National Assembly
Members of the Corps Diplomatique
Distinguished Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen*

Today the Government and the People of the Federative Republic of Brazil celebrate the fact that 182 years ago, the Brazilian People commenced to determine their own future.

Notwithstanding the challenges and obstacles encountered in this process, Brazil has achieved great success in its national development.

At the multilateral and the regional level the Federative Republic of Brazil has gained growing recognition in the political and economic arena.

The support of the Brazilian Government to alleviate the concerns of developing countries, adherence to the principles of equity and equitable distribution of wealth in the world, the leadership of Brazil with regard to the integration process in the South American region and with regard to inter-regional cooperation, specifically in the Initiative for the Integration of the Regional South American Infrastructure, the strengthening of the Mercosur bloc, and the promotion of common stances on "issues" of mutual concern are just a few examples.

In this context I also refer to the initiative of President Lula da Silva to convene a Summit on the Fight against Hunger and Poverty on 20 September next in New York on the eve of the opening of the 59th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Mr. Ambassador,

The Government of the Republic of Suriname attaches great importance to the view that a united and strengthened South American bloc will effectively serve its interests in the globalized world.

During my working visit to Brazil in July 2003 I had the opportunity to exchange views on this issue and other issues of mutual interest with your President.

Allow me, on this occasion, to dwell upon the implementation of agreements reached as a result of talks between Surinamese Ministers and their Brazilian counterparts during that visit.

A draft agreement on the Registration of Nationals and on extradition have already been negotiated, while talks are due to take place to further improve the level of legal assistance between the authorities of both countries.

The Government of the Republic of Suriname is looking forward to signing the draft agreements soon.

In the field of trade the cooperative spirit reigning between Suriname and Brazil has also been evident, since Suriname could benefit from special provisions offered by the Brazilian authorities, which resulted in the export of increased quantities of rice to the Brazilian northern market. Suriname would highly appreciate a continuation of these special provisions.

In the area of education it is worth stressing that Surinamese citizens continue to have the opportunity to upgrade their skills at Brazilian Institutions, while in the health sector Suriname could count on the assistance of Brazilian authorities in the fight against for example malaria and H.I.V./AIDS.

On the other hand Suriname is contributing much to the conditions and perspectives of the rapidly growing numbers of Brazilian citizens, grown ups and youth, who have come to live in Suriname.

During my last visit to Brasilia, I indeed had the honor of inviting your President to come and visit Suriname. The Government and People of Suriname are looking forward to welcoming the President of Brazil.

*Mr. Ambassador,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

May I extend, also on behalf of the Government and People of Suriname, my sincere congratulations to the Brazilian Government and Nation and propose a toast to the continued good health of the President of the Federative Republic of Brazil, His Excellency Lula da Silva, and to prosperity for the Brazilian People.

I thank you.

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