

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON THE CONCLUSION OF THE TENTH INTER-SESSIONAL MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM) 4-5 March, Paramaribo, Suriname

The Tenth Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community, was held in Paramaribo, Suriname on 4-5 March, 1999.

Heads of Government in attendance were: Rt. Hon. Owen Arthur, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Barbados; Hon. Edison James, Prime Minister and Minister of Legal Affairs and Labour, Dominica; Dr the Hon. Keith Mitchell, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Finance, Trade and Industry, Information, National Security and National Mobilisation, Grenada; Her Excellency Janet Jagan, O.E., President of the Republic of Guyana; Hon. David Brandt, Chief Minister, Montserrat; Hon. Dr. Denzil Douglas, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Finance, Planning and National Security, St. Kitts and Nevis; Rt. Hon. Sir James E. Mitchell, Prime Minister, St. Vincent and the Grenadines; H.E. Dr. Jules A. Wijdenbosch, President of the Republic of Suriname, and Hon. Basdeo Panday, Prime Minister, Trinidad and Tobago.

Antigua and Barbuda was represented by His Excellency Colin Murdoch, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Ambassador to Cuba; The Bahamas by Honourable Janet Bostwick, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs; Belize by the Honourable Florencio Marin, Minister of Latin American Affairs; Jamaica by the Honourable Seymour Mullings, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade; and Saint Lucia by the Honourable Mario Michel, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Education, Human Resource Development, Youth and Sport. Also in attendance was His Excellency Emmanuel Fritz Longchamp, Minister of Foreign Affairs, representing the President of the Republic of Haiti.

Heads of Government also welcomed the Vice- President of the Dominican Republic, His Excellency Dr. Jaime David Fernandez Mirabel.

Opening Ceremony

The Opening Ceremony of the Tenth Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community was staged on Thursday, 4 March 1999 at Congress Hall, Paramaribo, Suriname and was chaired by Mr. Edwin Carrington, Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

In his Opening Remarks, the Secretary-General said it was "without doubt a special moment in the history of the Government and peoples of Suriname." He also stated that the quality of participation by youth representatives in the many activities marking the 25th Anniversary Celebrations of the Caribbean Community and in the Retreat of Heads of Government, should serve to assure the Community that there was much justification for the faith being placed in the youth of the Region.

Statements were also made by His Excellency Dr Jules Wijdenbosch, President of Suriname and Chairman in Office of the Conference of Heads of Government and the Honourable Basdeo Panday, Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago.

In his statement, His Excellency Dr. Jules Wijdenbosch indicated that "while the process of the comprehensive economic harmonisation and the establishment of the Single Market and Economy is taking place, CARICOM should continue to identify reliable partners to further develop and establish formal, structural and promising linkages of cooperation". He continued "we must enter the new millennium no less than a strengthened Caribbean with its own political agenda that is an integral part of the global agenda. CARICOM, focused and equipped on the basis of a modern, practical and sound concept of development, can be a valuable and effective instrument to this end."

His Excellency stated emphatically that "the current process of globalization should not be allowed to result in the political and economic marginalisation of developing countries and in the increased vulnerability of their peoples. All actors in the international community must commit themselves to turn globalization into the instrument which the world community may use to eliminate underdevelopment; for definitively relegating to the past disproportionate advantages for strong economies in relation to weak economies and making way for harmonious and well-balanced relations, and for translating dependence into solidarity with emerging nations in their struggle to achieve sustainable economic development."

The President added that at the Conference the objectives of CARICOM which were formulated at one time must surely be brought up for discussion. These objectives were based on the following characterization of economic integration - the process through which the economies of a group of countries are linked together more closely in an import substitution model so that extra strength is increasingly added to both the group as a whole and its components. Thus, it involves the maximum economic development of the countries.

In his statement, Prime Minister Panday drew attention to the fact that the Community's youngest Member State Suriname, was not only truly in the Community, but in charge of the Community. He emphasised that the Region, faced with the challenges of the new millennium, must incorporate its cultural and ethnic diversity with the technological versatility which the Region's solidarity and the new age demanded and which were the only means by which the Region would secure its place in the hemisphere.

Heads of Government also took the opportunity of the Opening Ceremony to present trophies to the winner, Trinidad and Tobago and runner-up, St. Kitts and Nevis of the Regional School's Debating Competition held in honour of the 25th Anniversary celebrations of the Community.

They also took advantage of the opportunity to present to Mr. Anthony Nesty, Surinamese Olympic gold medalist for swimming, a special award as one of the Community's 25 greatest sports personalities.

Bananas

Heads of Government expressed grave concern over the continued action by the United States and other countries, at the WTO, to destroy the EU banana import regime and the disastrous consequences that this action would have on Caribbean economies and societies.

They deplored the US Government's decision to unilaterally impose sanctions on a wide range of EU products exported to the USA in response to the revised EU banana import regime and agreed to review their cooperation with the United States under the Caribbean-US Partnership for Prosperity and Security in the Caribbean.

In this regard, Heads of Government agreed to issue the following statement:

Statement on the United States' Unilateral Imposition of Sanctions Against the European Union Banana Import Marketing Regime

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Caribbean Community, meeting in Paramaribo, Suriname, deplore the precipitate unilateral action of the United States to impose sanctions against the European Union (EU) over its Banana Import Regime. This unauthorised and illegal action undermines the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and threatens the economic survival and social and political stability of several Caribbean countries.

The European Union modified its Banana Import Regime radically and implemented the new Regime on 1 January 1999, in full compliance with the ruling of the WTO. The United States' unilateral action has no basis in the WTO. Firstly, that Organisation now has underway a binding arbitration procedure to determine the merits of the proposal for remedy by the United States. It has requested additional information which the United States has not yet provided. Secondly, the WTO, under the emergency procedures of its dispute settlement mechanism, currently has two Panels determining the conformity of the new EU Regime with its original ruling. It is the only body which can determine compliance with its rulings and is due to announce its findings by 6 April 1999. The United States is therefore in flagrant violation of the Rules and Procedures of the WTO.

The banana industry is of vital economic interest to the Caribbean and the present United States action will destroy that industry. Europe is the Region's only export market and the Region's share of that market accounts for only 2 per cent of world trade in bananas. Despite that miniscule share of the trade, the banana industry is a major earner of foreign currency and provider of employment for several Caribbean countries.

Heads of Government have, on several occasions over the last five years, explained to President Clinton the disastrous consequences for the Caribbean of any precipitous disruption of its banana market in Europe. Recognising their mutual interest, Caribbean Heads of Government and President Clinton agreed upon and signed a "Partnership for Prosperity and Security in the Caribbean" Bridgetown, Barbados in May 1997. In that Bridgetown Accord, the Caribbean and the United States explicitly agreed "to work with all concerned parties to achieve mutually satisfactory marketing arrangements for Caribbean bananas, recognising the critical importance to Caribbean countries of the continued access of Caribbean bananas to the traditional markets of the European Union". They also recognised "the inextricable link between trade, economic development, security and prosperity" in their societies. The United States' recent action thus strikes at the very heart of the partnership with the Caribbean - its security and prosperity - and calls into question the entire partnership agreement.

The countries of the Caribbean Community have agreed to immediately review the Bridgetown Accord to determine the basis for continued cooperation.

5 March 1999

Vision 21 - The Community into the Next Decade

Heads of Government had an initial exchange of views on the Community in the next decade. An historic element of this exchange was the involvement of representatives of the youth of the Region during their Retreat at Saramacca.

In this discussion, it was generally acknowledged that central to the problem to Caribbean integration, was the fact that the method and structure of Governance of the Community was inadequate for spearheading and guiding a regional integration movement.

Heads of Government recognised that at the heart of the problem was the absence of any central executive/decision-making authority, capable of acting on behalf of Member States within the limits of the Treaty.

Heads of Government agreed that the status quo was unsustainable and that action needed to be taken with despatch both of a tactical and strategic nature to respond to the current situation.

Heads of Government agreed to continue their discussion at the Twentieth Meeting of the Conference on strengthening the system of Governance applied to Caribbean integration.

They expressed their deep appreciation to the youth representatives who participated in the dialogue. Heads of Government also expressed the hope that this involvement would assist the youth representatives to encourage their peers to participate fully in the political, economic and social development of their countries and the Community.

Candidatures

Heads of Government undertook a preliminary exchange of views on the question of the choice of candidate for the position of Secretary-General of the Organisation of American States (OAS). Within this context they received a delegation from Costa Rica headed by HE Mr. Miguel Angel Rodriguez Echeverria, President of Costa Rica and including the Central American candidate for the post, former Costa Rican President Rafael Angel Calderon. They also received a delegation of the Government of Colombia led by Vice President Gustavo Bell who spoke on behalf of the incumbent Secretary-General, Colombian Cesar Gaviria.

Progress Towards the Establishment of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME)

Heads of Government reviewed the status of implementation of their decision that the key elements of the CSME would be implemented by 1999. They noted that to date, two of the nine Protocols required to revise the Treaty of Chaguaramas - Protocol I on the Organs and institutional arrangements, Protocol II on Establishment, Services and Capital had been signed by all Member States, and have been provisionally applied, pending their definitive entry into force. They welcomed the signing of Protocols III and V by Montserrat at this Meeting. Thirteen Member States have now signed Protocol III - Industrial Policy - and eleven have signed Protocol V - Agricultural Policy. They agreed that the remaining Protocols should be

ready for signature at the Twentieth Meeting of the Conference.

Heads of Government acknowledged that the test of the effectiveness of the Treaty revision will be in the implementation of the necessary national legislation and the establishment of the arrangements required at both national and Community levels. Heads of Government, therefore, agreed to make every effort to ensure that key instruments relating to Free Movement of Skilled CARICOM Nationals, the Social Security Agreement, the Intra-regional Double Taxation Agreement as well as arrangements governing the free movement of goods, services and capital are operational and effective in all Member States by the end of 1999.

Association of Caribbean States (ACS) and the European Union (EU)/Latin America and the Caribbean Summits

Heads of Government discussed preparations for the Second ACS Summit to be held on 16-17 April 1999 in the Dominican Republic and the EU/Latin America and the Caribbean Summit to be held on 28-29 June 1999 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

They particularly welcomed the opportunity which the Second ACS Summit would afford them to enter into frank discussions on the pursuit of the mandates given in 1995 in the areas of tourism, trade and transportation, and on the future of the ACS.

UN Special Session to Review the SIDS Programme of Action (SIDS/POA)

Heads of Government reiterated their support for the SIDS/POA, recognising its importance to the sustainable development of their states and small island developing states generally.

Heads of Government, however, noted with concern that few resources had been extended by the international community, for the execution of the SIDS/POA and urged that the commitments in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and Bridgetown, Barbados be honoured. They undertook to continue to provide resources within the limitations of the Region's capacity for the development of the national programmes agreed to in the Programme of Action.

The Proposal to Have the Caribbean Sea Internationally Recognised as a Special Area in the Context of Sustainable Development

Heads of Government reiterated their support for the region to work towards having the Caribbean Sea internationally recognised as a Special Area in the context of Sustainable Development.

They acknowledged that such recognition would be gained only over time given the many issues which would need to be addressed by the international community. They emphasised the importance of the collaborative effort with the countries of the ACS which would be required for the successful promotion of this objective and were pleased that the ACS had included this issue as a major element of the proposed Environmental Strategy of the ACS region.

They urged that the Region continue to sensitise the international community, the media, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and the public in general to this objective.

Movement of Hazardous Material through the Caribbean Sea

Heads of Government noted that emissaries of France, Japan and the United Kingdom, among others, had brought to their attention, the imminent shipment of nuclear materials through the Caribbean Sea. They agreed to issue the following statement:

Statement On The Movement Of Nuclear Material Through The Caribbean Sea

Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community reiterate their unwavering opposition and that of their peoples to the blatant and persistent use of the Caribbean Sea for the transshipment of highly toxic nuclear materials. They again call on the Governments of France, Japan and the United Kingdom to respect the economic importance and ecological fragility of the Caribbean Sea and the well-being of the millions of people who depend on this unique resource for their very existence. Fully conscious of the catastrophic consequences of any accident for their peoples and for the

ecological systems of the Caribbean Sea, they totally reject its use as a transit for such nuclear materials. This is in keeping with the repeated, expressed desire of the Governments and peoples of the Caribbean.

It is therefore with profound concern that Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community have learnt of the simultaneous despatch of two shipments of highly radioactive nuclear materials from France and the United Kingdom through the Caribbean Sea and the Panama Canal destined for Japan. They have also learnt that the current shipment of mixed uranium oxide fuel from the United Kingdom is only the first of a series. They are aware that, in addition to the usual safety concerns, there are credible reports that the physical security of such cargoes is grossly inadequate. The Heads express their outrage at the increasing frequency and volume of the hazardous materials being shipped and the fact that the Caribbean Sea has now become the preferred transit route, in spite of repeated protests by States in and bordering on the Caribbean Sea.

Heads of Government therefore appeal to the United States, with its responsibility for the passage of vessels through the Panama Canal, to use its authority to prohibit the shipment of hazardous nuclear materials via that route and into the Caribbean. They likewise reiterate their appeal to the Governments of France, Japan and the United Kingdom to desist from this dangerous misuse of the Caribbean Sea.

**Paramaribo
5 March 1999**

Fund for Regional Y2K Initiative

Heads of Government welcomed the Commonwealth Secretariat's offer to provide funding for a Regional Y2K Initiative. A Year 2000 compliance training programme for National Y2K Coordinators from 19 countries and territories within the Region is scheduled for 15 March 1999 in Trinidad and Tobago. The Commonwealth Secretariat and the CDB are collaborating in this initiative. The meeting expressed its deep appreciation for the speedy and concrete response from these two agencies.

Guyana

Heads of Government discussed the political situation in Guyana and issued the following Statement:

Statement by the Conference on the Situation in Guyana

The Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community, meeting in Paramaribo on 5 March 1999, deplore the renewal of political discord and unrest in Guyana and call for an immediate cessation and a return to the commitment and spirit of the Herdmanston Accord and the Saint Lucia Statement.

The Heads of Government urge the CARICOM Facilitator, to continue his efforts at inter-party dialogue.

Montserrat

Heads of Government noted the report from the Chief Minister of Montserrat on the situation in that country. They reiterated their support for the Government and people of that Member State and committed their countries to honouring original pledges for the construction of the CARICOM Village as early as possible. They agreed to place emphasis on the completion of construction of the fifteen houses in Phase I and in particular welcomed the further undertakings of those Member States which agreed to make contributions to the additional sums required to complete construction of the houses in this Phase.

A strategy will subsequently be presented for the completion of Phase II of the Village.

St Kitts and Nevis

Heads of Governments received a report from the Prime Minister of St. Kitts and Nevis on efforts to resolve

constitutional issues between the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis and the Administration of Nevis. They were pleased that a Constitutional Task Force had been established to prepare a draft Constitution that would allow each unit in the federal structure to exercise autonomy over its internal affairs while the Federal Government would retain responsibility for defence, foreign affairs and the judiciary.

They expressed the hope that all political parties in the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis would support the initiatives being taken on the issue.

The Political Situation in Haiti

Heads of Government thanked the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Haiti for his report on the current political situation in that country.

They agreed to continue to lend their support and assistance to Haiti and looked forward to Haiti becoming a full member of the Caribbean Community.

Guyana/Venezuela

Heads of Government noted the existing climate of friendly relations between Guyana and Venezuela conducted in an atmosphere of respect and mutual understanding.

In that context, they welcomed the commitment of the newly-elected President of Venezuela, His Excellency Hugo Chavez Frias, towards the establishment of a High Level Bilateral Commission to further promote consultation and cooperation between the two countries.

They expressed satisfaction over the progress being made under the aegis of the United Nations Secretary General, through his good officer, Sir Alister McIntyre as was stated in the Joint Communique issued in Caracas, on the occasion of President Jagan's visit to Venezuela and the goodwill expressed in the interview between the Presidents of both countries on the occasion of the swearing-in ceremony of the President of Venezuela on 2 February 1999.

Heads of Government reaffirmed their support for the manner in which both countries had been striving to resolve their outstanding issues and reiterated their support for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Guyana and desire for a peaceful settlement to the controversy between Guyana and Venezuela.

The Agreement Concerning the Caribbean Investment Fund (CIF)

Heads of Government welcomed the signing by Dominica and St. Vincent and the Grenadines of the Agreement Concerning the Caribbean Investment Fund.

Appreciation

Heads of Government expressed their sincere appreciation to the Government and people of Suriname for the kind hospitality so generously bestowed on them and their delegations.

Date and Venue of the Twentieth Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government

Heads of Government accepted the offer by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to host the Twentieth Meeting of the Conference, to be held from 4 to 7 July 1999.

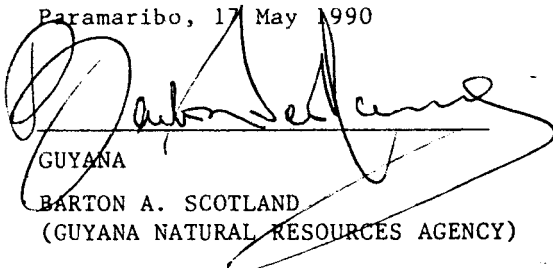
Paramaribo, Suriname 5 March 1999

PETROLEUM

THE TWO SIDES EXCHANGED INFORMATION ON THE STATE OF PETROLEUM DEVELOPMENT IN THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES AND AGREED TO CONTINUE THEIR COLLABORATION THROUGH THE AGENCIES IN THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES RESPONSIBLE FOR PETROLEUM DEVELOPMENT.

IT WAS MENTIONED THAT GUYANA WAS STILL AWAITING WORD FROM SURINAME TO RESUME DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING THE MARINE AREA OF OVERLAP.

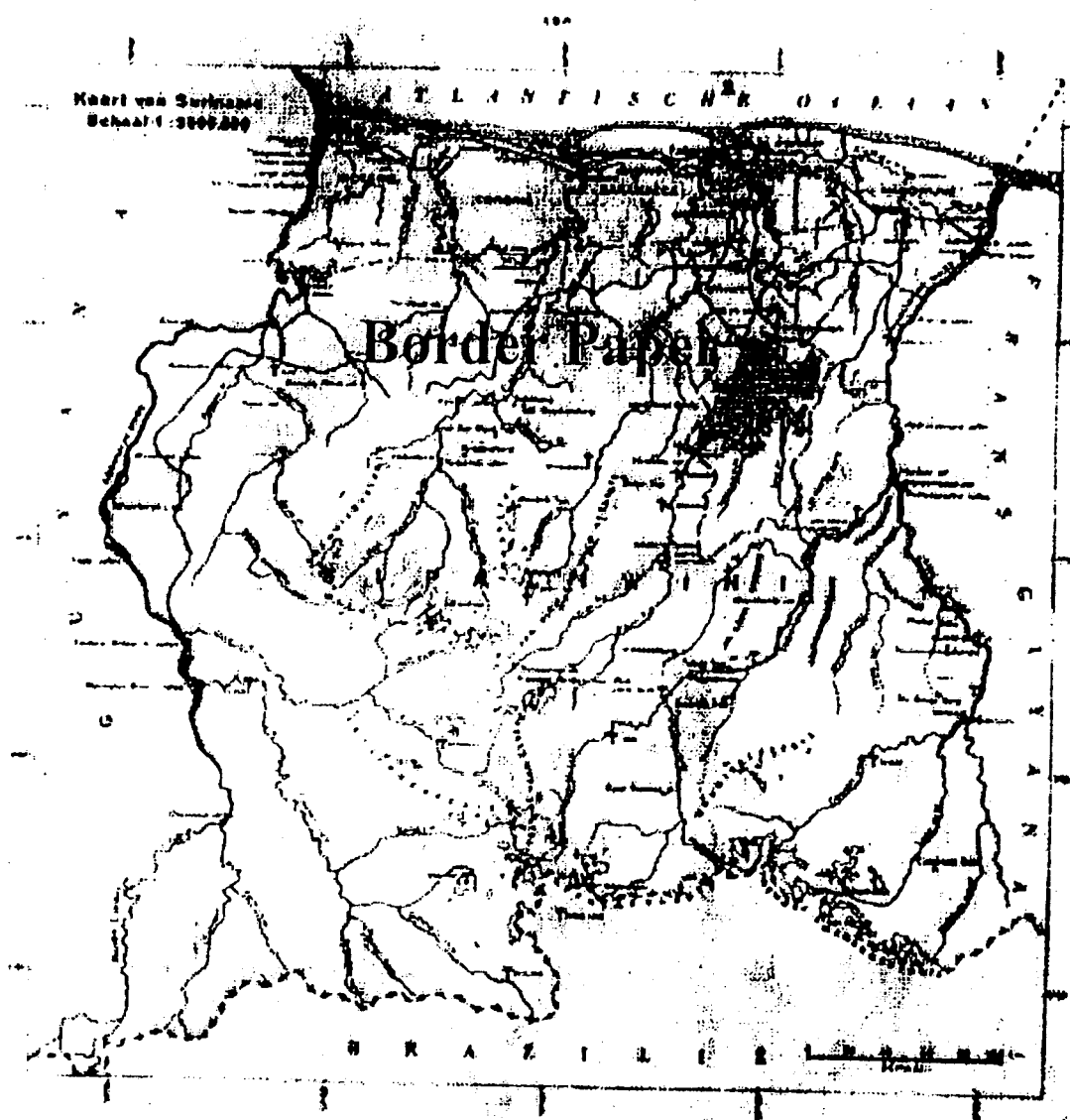
Paramaribo, 17 May 1990


GUYANA
BARTON A. SCOTLAND
(GUYANA NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY)


SURINAME

GEORGES ELIAS
(FOR RUBEN YANG -
MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES)

5/4/5



**Documentation provided by the delegation
of the Republic of Suriname at the
Twenty-First Meeting of the Conference
of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community**

**Canouan, St. Vincent and the Grenadines
2 - 5 July 2000**

REPORT OF THE INAUGURATION OF THE MARK AT
THE NORTHERN TERMINAL OF THE BOUNDARY
BETWEEN SURINAME AND BRITISH GUIANA
JULY 5TH 1936

REPORT ON THE INAUGURATION OF THE MARK AT THE NORTHERN
TERMINAL OF THE BOUNDARY BETWEEN SURINAM
AND BRITISH GUIANA.

1. On 5th July, 1936 the Heads of the Netherlands and British Boundary Commission met at No. 63 Village (Bonab) Courantyne, for the purpose of drawing up this report on the inauguration of the Northern Terminal Point Mark of the Surinam/British Guiana Boundary.

2. Identification of the approximate position of the Mark.

The Mixed Commission first plotted on the latest 1927 Dutch chart of the Courantyne Mouth the co-ordinates given in their instructions for the proposed site. ($6^{\circ} 00' 25''$ N.) ($57^{\circ} 08' 10''$ W.). Astronomical observations were then made by both Commissions for Latitude, Longitude and Azimuth near the Government Rest House at No. 63 Village (Bonab). From the Astronomical stations a theodolite traverse was made Northward along the coast. It was found that the point $6^{\circ} 00' 25''$ N. $57^{\circ} 08' 10''$ W. was actually in the sea owing to the chart being incorrect as regards Longitude. The traverse was therefore continued along the coast to the Latitude of $6^{\circ} 00' 25''$ N. but there the land was found to be most unsuitable for the construction of the pillars.

The most suitable position was found to be on a wide stretch of grass land behind a low sand dune. Here the ground was comparatively firm and did not appear to be subject to the erosion by the sea. In fact it appeared to be being built up here if anything. The coast at this point made a slight bend from North towards the North West similar to the coast shown on the chart at the point indicated by the co-ordinates. The sandbank shown on the chart opposite this bend was also visible at low tide in the corresponding relative position.

3. The Netherlands Commissioner considered it was essential that the continuation of the Boundary in the territorial waters should leave the navigation channel in the same territory throughout its length. Other difficulties would arise over lighting, buoys, etc. A line drawn on a True Bearing of 28° E, from the site selected for the Boundary Mark would not leave free the whole channel. The British Commissioner believed that the bearing of 28° was only chosen because it was thought that this would possibly allow a direction mark to be placed on the sandbank mentioned above.

The Mixed Commission therefore decided to indicate the direction of the boundary line in the territorial waters on a True bearing of 10° E, this direction being parallel to the mid-channel line as indicated on the chart.

4. Geographical Co-ordinates of the Terminal Mark.

The values found by the British and Netherlands Commissions and the accepted Mean Values are as follows:

	Latitude	Longitude
British	50° 59' 54".05 North.	57° 00' 51".59 West
Netherlands	50° 59' 53".60 North.	57° 00' 51".41 West.
Accepted Mean	50° 59' 53". 8 North.	57° 00' 51". 5 West.

The above values refer to the buried mark 'A', about 3 metres from the visible pillar 'A'.

5. Description of the Mark.

(a) The Mark proper, whose co-ordinates are given above, is a concrete block (40 cms. cube) with a brass centre bolt embedded in the top. On the top surface is engraved the letter 'A' and the year '1936'. The top of the block is buried 10 cms. below the surface of the ground.

(b) At a distance of 220 metres inland on a true bearing of 190° from the centre bolt of Mark 'A' is a similar buried block, marked 'B'. The line joining the centre bolt of 'B' to that of 'A' and projected out to sea gives the direction of the boundary line in Territorial waters i.e. 10° East of True North.

(c) The real marks being buried below the surface of the ground two visible pillars have been erected on the line joining the two marks 'A' and 'B' but 3 metres beyond the buried mark in each case so that the line between the two marks is uninterrupted by the pillars. The pillars have been marked 'A' and 'B' corresponding to the marks which they indicate. Both pillars are truncated square pyramids, with the width 40 cms. at the top and 50 cms. at ground level. They are buried 60 cms. in the ground and project 60 cms. above the ground, with a rounded cap about 5 cms. high, making the total height above ground about 65 cms. Both pillars are set diagonally on the line joining the two marks 'A' and 'B', and thus have two adjacent faces towards the sea and two towards the land.

(d) Pillar 'A' has engraved on its N.W. face the words "BRITISH GUIANA", on its N.E. face "SURINAME", on its S.E. face 'A' and on its S.W. face "1936".

It is about 215 metres from the proposed lowwater mark, but this measurement is of little use as the coast is continually changing here. It is however situated on comparatively firm grass land immediately inland of a small sand dune which follows the highwater mark.

Pillar 'B' has only the letter "B" on the N.E. face and the year "1936" on the S.W. face.

(e) The situation of the pillars and marks relative to each other and the neighbouring landmarks is shown on the attached sketch. The general position of the Marks is about 1720 metres North of the Government Rest House at No. 63 Village (Benab) Courantyne.

6. Erection of a large Mark visible from the sea.

Owing to the fact that there is no stone available

considered impracticable to erect a large concrete mark visible from ships at sea. As such a mark is necessary a high wooden structure has to be built. This mark has to be placed in the abovementioned line of 10° N. The lookout towards is here unobstructed. The mark must be kept up and renewed when necessary.

7. As a further safeguard for the replacement of the mark referred to in para. 5, a small concrete mark has been made at the British Astronomical Station. This is 8.5 metres from the N.E. corner of the Rest House and 14.4 metres from the N.W. corner.

Latitude 5° 58' .09" N.

Longitude 57° 08' 55.12" W.

I. Phipps Major R.

Head of British Commission

C.C. Koyser

Hoofd der Nederlandsche Commissie.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE WESTERN BOUNDARY
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SURINAME**

DESCRIPTION OF THE WESTERN BOUNDARY
OF THE
REPUBLIC OF SURINAME

The western boundary of Suriname with the neighbouring country of Guyana both on the South American continent and in the Atlantic Ocean, from the South to the North is constituted as follows:

The shortest line from a point yet to be determined on the southern boundary with the neighbouring country of Brazil to the source of the Upper Corentyne River, subsequently from this source along the west bank of the Upper Corentyne and the Corentyne rivers to the point marked: Latitude 5°59'53".8 North and Longitude 57°08'51".5 West, where the aforesaid shoreline cuts the coastline in sea.

From this marked point the boundary continues along a line 10 degrees East of True North, being the western limit of the Territorial Sea, the Exclusive Economic Zone and the Continental Shelf of Suriname.

The above determination of the boundary is based on ratified treaties and agreements, such as:

- the Governors' Agreement of 1799, which was subsequently proclaimed as a ratified treaty, namely the "Peace Convention" of 1814.

As well as historical points of view, geographical data, scientific interpretations, while the principles of international law which apply in determining the boundaries between countries have served as an important guideline.

Paramaribo, 28 June 2000


J. M. J. Laus

Press release 18/2001
(23 January 2001)

**STATEMENT ON THE GUYANA-VENEZUELA RELATIONS
ISSUED BY THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OF THE CARIBBEAN
COMMUNITY (CARICOM) AND CANADA AT THEIR SIXTH
SUMMIT MEETING IN MONTEGO BAY, JAMAICA, 19 JANUARY 2001**

Heads of Government of CARICOM and CANADA, at their Sixth Summit Meeting in Montego Bay, Jamaica on January 19, 2001, were briefed by the Government of Guyana on the controversy between Guyana and Venezuela.

The Heads of Government noted that the Government of Venezuela continued to make claims to Guyana's territory.

They further noted that the two countries were committed to finding a peaceful resolution to the controversy under the 1966 Geneva Agreement and that both Guyana and Venezuela have expressed a desire for the continuation of the Good Officer Process of the United Nations Secretary General.

The Heads of Government of CARICOM and Canada encouraged both Parties not to undertake any unilateral actions which could undermine the relations between the two countries.

Heads of Government reiterated their support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Guyana and encouraged continued dialogue between Guyana and Venezuela for a peaceful resolution of the controversy.

Press release 98/2003
(23 July 2003)

**COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE TWENTY-FOURTH
MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OF THE
CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY, 2-5 JULY 2003, MONTEGO BAY, JAMAICA**

The 24th Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) was held in Montego Bay, Jamaica, on 2 – 5 July 2003 and coincided with the 30th Anniversary of the Community.

It was presided over by the Most Hon Percival J Patterson, ON, Prime Minister of Jamaica and Chairman of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community.

Other Heads of Government in attendance were Hon. Lester B. Bird, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda; Hon. Perry Christie, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas; Rt. Hon. Owen Arthur, Prime Minister of Barbados; Hon. Saïd Musa, Prime Minister of Belize; Hon. Pierre Charles, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Dominica; Dr. the Hon. Keith C. Mitchell, Prime Minister of Grenada; H.E. Bharrat Jagdeo, President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana; H.E. Jean-Bertrand Aristide, President of the Republic of Haiti; Hon. John Osbourne, Chief Minister of Montserrat; Hon. Dr. Denzil Douglas, Prime Minister of the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis; Dr. the Hon. Kenny D. Anthony, Prime Minister of Saint Lucia; Dr. the Hon. Ralph Gonsalves, Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines; H.E. Runaldo R. Venetiaan, President of the Republic of Suriname; and Hon. Patrick Manning, Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

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Representing the Associate Member States were Hon. Jennifer Smith, Premier of Bermuda, Hon. Orlando Smith, Chief Minister of the British Virgin Islands, and Hon. Derek Taylor, Chief Minister of the Turks and Caicos Islands. The Hon. Victor Banks, Minister of Finance represented Anguilla.

YOUTH PARTICIPATION

Heads of Government welcomed the presence of the Dean and Vice Dean of the CARICOM Youth Ambassadors as well as the Youth Ambassadors from Jamaica representing the youth of the Community during their deliberations.

OPENING CEREMONY

In his introductory remarks at the Opening Ceremony, Mr. Edwin W. Carrington, Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community, pointed out on its 30th Anniversary that CARICOM was the longest existing integration movement among developing countries in the world. This, he said was a tribute to the tenacity of the Caribbean people and their leaders as well as an innate recognition of the necessity of integration.

In his address, the outgoing Chairman of the Conference Hon. Pierre Charles, Prime Minister of Dominica, remarked that while we celebrate the 30th Anniversary of our Caribbean Community: "let us envisage a region that will be the epiphany of interdependency. For it is only by merging our resources, our talents, our people, our voices that we will be true to the theme of our 30th Anniversary celebrations: *INTEGRATION – OUR KEY TO PROSPERITY.*"

The Most Hon. Percival J. Patterson, Prime Minister of Jamaica, the Chairman of Conference, said that if regional integration were an option before, it was now an absolute imperative. "That is the situation in which we meet here to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of CARICOM. It is time for celebration of the largest measure of unity the

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Caribbean has ever known. It is no small achievement. And let us be quite specific. It was not an achievement of political directorates alone; it was very purposefully an achievement of Caribbean people. For they have never wavered in their perceptions of Caribbean oneness”.

Hon. Said Musa, Prime Minister of Belize stated in his address that integration had been CARICOM's best hope for survival. “As we continue to advance this great work we must ensure that the structures we build and the results we achieve are indeed designed to improve the welfare of the Caribbean man and woman.”

The Rt. Hon. Owen Arthur, Prime Minister of Barbados, in giving an overview of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy, stated that at the end of the day, the CSME was intended to give rise to more competitive economies and its implementation must be guided by the precept that it was enterprises and not Governments which competed. “We must use the CSME therefore to evolve more competitive companies.” He quoted former Jamaican Prime Minister Norman Manley in pointing out that “great causes are not won by doubtful men”. Prime Minister Arthur added that “now is not the time to doubt ourselves.”

The President of South Africa, Thabo Mbeki, who is also President of the African Union, was a special guest at the Opening Ceremony. He stressed the vanguard role played by the Caribbean in the fight against apartheid and issued an invitation to the Heads of Government of the Community to attend the 10th Anniversary of post apartheid South Africa in 2004. Heads of Government welcomed the invitation.

Another highlight of the Opening Ceremony was the handing over of the Torch of Unity by Usain Bolt, the World Junior Sprint Champion of Jamaica, to Prime Minister Patterson, Chairman of the Conference. The Torch had traversed the 15 Member States of the Community and was carried by over 300 hundred runners.

The texts of the speeches can be found on the CARICOM Website (www.caricom.org).

SIGNING OF AGREEMENTS

The Premier of Bermuda, Hon. Jennifer Smith, signed the Instruments of Accession making Bermuda the fifth (5th) Associate Member State of the Caribbean Community.

Heads of Government witnessed the signing by the President of Haiti of the Instrument of Accession to the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas.

They also witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the CARICOM Secretariat and the Food and Agricultural Organisation.

The CARICOM Secretariat and the World Trade Organisation Secretariat also signed a Cooperation Agreement.

MESSAGES

Messages were received from the Governments of Cuba, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Dominican Republic, Peru, The Russian Federation and Venezuela as well as from the Secretary-General of the United Nations. A message was also received from the International Consortium of Caribbean Professionals (ICCP).

AWARD OF ORDER OF JAMAICA (OJ) TO SECRETARY-GENERAL

Heads of Government applauded the conferment of the Order of Jamaica (OJ) by the Government of Jamaica on Mr. Edwin Carrington, Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community, for his outstanding contribution to regional integration. The Order of

Jamaica is the highest national order that can be conferred by Jamaica on a non-national.

CARIBBEAN EXAMINATION COUNCIL (CXC) AT '30'

Heads of Government acknowledged the achievements of the CXC and offered congratulations to that Institution on its 30th Anniversary. They noted in particular the invaluable role played by the Council in administering the Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate and the expansion of its role particularly with respect to the introduction of the Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination process. Heads of Government reaffirmed the commitment of their Governments to the strengthening and growth of CXC as a regional examination body. (A full statement from the Council of Human and Social Development (April 2003) approved by Heads of Government is attached).

CARICOM SINGLE MARKET AND ECONOMY (CSME)

Heads of Government stressed the urgency in implementing the key elements of the CSME providing for cross-border free movement ahead of the scheduled 2005 deadline. This they deemed to be particularly important since at this implementation phase it is necessary to focus on the Region's production sectors and support institutions including the requisites for establishing the enabling environment for competitiveness.

As evidence of their recognition that it cannot be business as usual, Heads of Government have taken the necessary action to enable them to declare that effective 1 August 2003, there will be free movement of graduates, media workers, musicians, artistes and sports persons to work across the Region. CARICOM nationals in these categories will have the right to enter any Member State for six months in the first

instance and to work in that Member State consistent with the criteria and procedures which have been agreed and which will be posted on the CARICOM web site.

Over the next several months, arrangements to give effect to the free movement of the new categories of self employed CARICOM nationals establishing businesses, providing services, moving capital, and their managerial, technical and supervisory staff and spouses and immediate dependent family members, will be finalised. This will take into account the Programmes established by the Conference setting out the time lines of December 2003, 2004 and 2005 for the removal of remaining restrictions.

To ensure the smooth and effective implementation of the CSME, Heads of Government accepted the offer of Barbados to host a Third Special Consultation on the CSME and also agreed to address CSME issues when they meet in Special Session later this year.

Free Movement of People

Heads of Government recommitted themselves to hassle-free movement of the people of the Region in order to promote a greater sense of community. They urged Member State to ensure that this spirit of community is engendered at all ports of entry in the Community.

Caribbean Court of Justice

The Twenty-Fourth Meeting reaffirmed the decision that the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) will be inaugurated before the end of 2003 as agreed at its Twenty-Third Meeting. In that regard Member States were urged to complete the internal legislation necessary to facilitate the original and appellate jurisdiction of the Court. The Conference noted that the High Level Task Force had begun meeting and was engaged in putting together the programme of pre-inauguration activities as well as activities for the inauguration

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itself. The Conference determined that the date for the inauguration would be announced later.

Earlier in the historic ceremony the MS in a position to do so signed the Instruments relating to the Court thus ensuring the completion of the legal framework for the inauguration of the Court.

The following instruments in relation to the Caribbean Court of Justice were signed by Heads of Government:

- Protocol on the privileges and the immunities of the Caribbean Court of justice and the Regional Judicial and Services Commission.
- Protocol to the agreement establishing the Caribbean Court of Justice
- The agreement establishing the Caribbean Court of Justice Trust Fund.
- Vesting deed of the Caribbean Court of Justice Trust Fund.

REVIVING AND REPOSITIONING THE REGIONAL ECONOMY

Heads of Government noted the effort of Dominica to sustain the macro-economic measures it had made to stabilise its economy. They urged Member States to continue to provide financial and technical assistance to Dominica.

Heads of Government placed great emphasis on the search for mechanisms to revive and reposition the regional economy. In that context, they reaffirmed their decision to establish the Regional Stabilisation Fund with an initial capital of US\$50M, increasing to US\$180M within five years. Twelve Member States have made commitments to the

capital of the Fund. Heads of Government requested the Caribbean Development Bank to assume day-to-day management of the Fund.

Heads of Government welcomed the pledge of Trinidad and Tobago to provide US\$16M to the Trinidad and Tobago Support Fund as an initial contribution to the Caribbean Development Fund for Disadvantaged Countries, Regions and Sectors.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

Recognising the vast ICT potential for enhancing and integrating the Region, as well as driving its trade and economic agendas, Heads of Government adopted the **CARICOM ICT/Connectivity Agenda 2003** and **Platform for Action**. They embraced the regional strategic approach to development of a sector/industry founded on universal access, utilisation and production of relevant content. The strategy also provided an opportunity for trade and other relevant development issues to be raised in pursuit of ICT benefits. Heads of Government declared education and targeted development of ICT export-oriented services industry, based on a research and development agenda, as a high priority for universal impact and innovation.

Heads of Government endorsed the **Internet-based Radio network – Radio CARICOM** dedicated to public service broadcasting, and which would seek to bring the people of the Region closer to the work of the Region through this medium.

Heads of Government commended the role of the Secretariat in defining the Agenda and requested that it continue to collaborate with Community institutions and other organisations towards maximizing the benefits of ICT to the Community.

THE HURRICANE FORECAST

Heads of Government appealed to Member States to assess their state of preparedness for national disaster and to review local arrangements for financing

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emergency response and relief. Member States were also encouraged to adopt Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) strategies to minimize potential losses.

Heads of Government also took cognizance of the recommendations of CDERA that consideration be given to the reinvigoration and activation of the CARICOM Working Group on insurance and reinsurance.

EXCHANGES WITH SPECIALLY INVITED GUESTS

Chile

Heads of Government welcomed the participation of the President of Chile in the observance of the 30th Anniversary of the Community. In their exchange with the President, Heads of Government welcomed the President's call for CARICOM and Chile to work together to achieve common positions on issues in the international arena. Heads of Government expressed appreciation for the positive stand taken by the Government of Chile on the treatment of the concerns of small economies in the FTAA and WTO negotiations and in particular welcomed the readiness of Chile to give special consideration to CARICOM countries in the area of market access in the FTAA as well as the restructuring of the global financial system and debt relief. They expressed appreciation for Chile's technical cooperation programmes with the Region and also welcomed offers made by Chile to assist the Region in the area of security and in its aim to reduce poverty and to improve the effective management of its fight against the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Dominican Republic

Heads of Government welcomed the reaffirmation by the President of the Dominican Republic of his commitment to the development of a closer relationship between his country and the Caribbean. The President issued an invitation to the leaders of the

region, to attend the Pan American Games in August 2003 and to their spouses to attend the Conference of First Ladies in October 2003.

Relations with the French Overseas Departments (DOMs)

Heads of Government were pleased to welcome the Vice President du Conseil Regional of Guadeloupe to the Conference. They were encouraged by the relations which already exist between the French DOMs and some states of the Eastern Caribbean and expressed satisfaction that both CARICOM and the French DOMs were accelerating their efforts at strengthening relations. In this regard, the INTERREG III Programme was seen as an excellent mechanism to further cooperation between CARICOM and the DOMs.

Representatives of International Organisations

Heads of Government engaged Heads of International Organisations or their representatives in a special session with the Secretaries-General of the Commonwealth and of the Organisation of American States (OAS) and the Directors-General of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). They also expressed appreciation to the Secretary-General of the United Nations through his special representative for the congratulatory message sent to the Conference on this, the Community's 30th Anniversary.

Heads of Government welcomed the support provided by these organisations to the Community and committed their countries to continued support of these international and regional bodies.

DIALOGUE WITH SOCIAL PARTNERS

Heads of Government and the Social Partners reaffirmed their commitment to work together in pursuit of sustainable development and to ensure the realisation of the objectives of the CSME and a better quality of life for the peoples of the Caribbean.

Heads of Government agreed that priorities for immediate attention must be determined on the basis of a dialogue between CARICOM Officials, the Private Sector and other social partners and must focus on development of modalities for cooperation in general and in particular the new partnerships to carry forward the sectoral development programmes included in the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramus.

RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA

Heads of Government noted with satisfaction the development of relations between the Community and the Russian Federation. They welcomed the congratulatory note despatched by the President of the Russian Federation to the Conference on the 30th anniversary of the Caribbean Community.

Heads of Government noted that the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Region are expected to meet with their Russian counterpart in September 2003 when a Mechanism on Political Dialogue between CARICOM and the Russian Federation is expected to be signed.

RELATIONS WITH INDIA

Heads of Government recognized the importance of strengthening relations between the Region and India taking into account the shared cultures between India and a number of CARICOM states. In this regard, they noted the proposal of the Government of India to establish an institutional linkage for regular political dialogue.

Heads of Government welcomed the invitation extended by the Government of India for the Chairman of the Community Council to visit India as part of the process of

strengthening relations and exploring opportunities for developing closer trade and economic ties between CARICOM and India.

REGIONAL AIR TRANSPORT

Heads of Government received a report from Dr. the Hon. Ralph Gonsalves on actions being spearheaded by Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, St Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago to establish a holding company to rationalize air transport services in the South and East Caribbean. They welcomed these developments as well as the short-term assistance being provided to BWIA and LIAT to help these airlines overcome immediate difficulties.

Heads of Government recognized that highest categorisation of their national oversight systems and the implementation of the provisions of the CARICOM Multilateral Air Services Agreement are critical to the competitiveness of regionally based airlines and the orderly development of the sector. They urged CARICOM aviation authorities to seek to obtain and maintain Category I status for national safety oversight mechanisms. They also urged Member States that are not parties to the CARICOM Multilateral Air Services Agreement to take the necessary measures to become parties.

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT FUND

Heads of Government reiterated the importance of the tourism sector to the Caribbean economy. In this context, they reaffirmed the need to establish the Sustainable Tourism Development Fund to facilitate the implementation of the strategic plan approved at their Twenty-Third Meeting and supported the effort to mobilize the resources for the Fund.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO'S BID FOR THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE FTAA

Heads of Government reiterated their commitment to support Trinidad and Tobago for the site of the Headquarters of the FTAA Permanent Secretariat and in this regard pledged to actively canvass other countries in the hemisphere.

CARICOM/COSTA RICA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

Heads of Government approved the CARICOM/Costa Rica Free Trade Agreement subject to certain modifications. It is anticipated that this Agreement will be converted into a CARICOM/ Central America Free Trade Agreement.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Belize/Guatemala

Heads of Government received the reports by the Prime Minister of Belize and by the OAS Secretary General on the progress made by the OAS-sponsored Facilitation Process on the Belize/Guatemala dispute. Heads of Government welcomed the Agreement to establish a Transition Process and Confidence Building Measures signed by the Parties on 7 February 2003, which commits the Parties to preserve the proposals made by the facilitators on 16 September 2002 for achieving a peaceful and permanent resolution to the Guatemala territorial claim on Belize, to complete the constitutional processes to enable referenda to be held as proposed by the facilitators and to work constructively and in good faith to manage their relationship until the matter is settled.

Heads of Government welcomed the news that an office of the OAS in the adjacency zone has now been established to monitor and assist in the implementation of the Agreement. They expressed their appreciation for the constructive role played by the

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OAS, and by the Secretary General personally, in the success of a process that offers the two countries an opportunity to resolve their dispute definitively and the success of which would make a notable contribution to conflict resolution elsewhere in the Greater Caribbean.

In reiterating its full support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Belize, the Conference urged the Parties to make every effort to bring this Process to an early conclusion by preparing the environment that will make possible the successful holding of the referenda within a reasonable time and by continuing to ensure that the dispute is treated as a matter of national priority and not one for party political manipulation. In this context, Heads of Government called on all friends of the Process to intensify their efforts to ensure that the steps remaining to be taken by the Parties are not unduly deferred, and pledged to do all that they can individually and collectively to encourage and assist in the completion of the Process to bring about the final resolution of this long-standing territorial dispute.

Guyana/Venezuela

Heads of Government welcomed recent developments in the relations between Guyana and Venezuela, which had resulted in a renewed commitment by the two countries to work towards the maintenance of friendly relations and to develop and intensify functional and economic cooperation.

Heads of Government noted with satisfaction that both countries had agreed to renew and reinvigorate consultations under the United Nations Good Officer Process. They reaffirmed their firm support for the maintenance of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Guyana and its right to develop the resources of its territory.

HAITI

After presentations on the situation in Haiti by President Aristide and Senator the Honourable Julian R. Hunte, Minister of External Affairs, International Trade and Civil Aviation of Saint Lucia and joint leader of the Joint OAS-CARICOM mission to Haiti, Heads of Government expressed a sense of disappointment that undertakings made by the Government of Haiti had not been fully complied with. Underlining the pervasive feeling of "battle-fatigue" in the international community and the need for urgency, Heads strongly urged the Government of Haiti to comply with despatch commitments made to create a security environment conducive to the formation of the Provisional Electoral Council (CEP).

Reflective of their continued concern that further delay in resolving the political impasse would accentuate the deterioration of the situation in Haiti, and following consultations between Prime Minister Anthony of Saint Lucia, lead Prime Minister responsible for Justice and Governance in the Caribbean Community, and the OAS Secretary-General, Cesar Gaviria, Heads agreed that a Special Representative should be appointed to support the OAS Special Mission in Haiti and to facilitate dialogue between the Government of Haiti and the political opposition.

THE SITUATION IN ST KITTS AND NEVIS

Heads of Governments received a report by the Prime Minister of St Kitts and Nevis on current political developments in the twin-island Federation, which highlighted, *inter alia*, the declared intention of the Concerned Citizens Movement of Nevis to invoke Clause 113 of the Constitution of St Kitts and Nevis (the Secession Clause) and to trigger a referendum on this matter within six months. While recognizing the constitutional right of Nevis to invoke Clause 113 of the Constitution of St Kitts and Nevis, Heads of Governments declared their strong preference for the Federation of St Kitts and Nevis to be preserved as a single nation within the international community.

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TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS

Heads of Government agreed to despatch an Election Observation Mission to monitor the by-election in the Turks and Caicos Islands on 7 August 2003.

CARICOM/USA RELATIONS

Heads discussed the Region's relations with the external world in the context of the profound changes affecting the functioning system. In this regard they noted the weakening of the traditional international norms such as multilateralism and respect for international law. Heads also noted that in post 9/11 world, security and the global war against terrorism had become foremost priorities on the international agenda to the detriment of the concerns of the developing world.

Heads of Government acknowledged that CARICOM's friendly relations with the US had been disrupted over the past few months by disagreements on sensitive issues. In this regard they deplored the US decision of 1 July 2003 to withdraw military aid from six CARICOM countries that had ratified the Rome Statute establishing the International Criminal Court and which had not signed "non-surrender" Agreements with the US to exempt their nationals from the jurisdiction of the Court. A statement released by Heads of Government on this issue is appended. Heads were of the view that the Region's relations with the US should continue to be principled and be guided by their historic ties and shared values and interest, and that every effort should be made to renew dialogue with the US.

CARICOM/Canada Relations

Heads of Government noted that the Prime Minister of Canada would be retiring in February 2004 and expressed appreciation for the tremendous goodwill he had

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displayed towards the Region. Heads of Government also endorsed the decisions of the COFCOR concerning continuing collaboration with Cuba.

EXTERNAL NEGOTIATIONS

Heads of Government noted that at this time the Region is confronting the cross currents of globalisation which pose both challenges and opportunities. The rules of the multilateral trading system are being rewritten and at the center of this process are the negotiations to create the Free Trade Area of the Americas, in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and those between the ACP and European Union for Economic Partnership Agreements.

Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA)

Heads of Government underlined the commitment of the Region to continue its engagement in the FTAA process. They noted the fruitful exchanges between the Region's Trade Ministers and Ambassador Robert Zoellick, the United States Trade Representative, which took place on the eve of the Conference. Heads reiterated the call for a pragmatic approach to the scope of the FTAA negotiations if the completion deadline of December 2004 is to be achieved.

Heads of Government welcomed the progress made towards implementation of the Hemispheric Cooperation Programme (HCP) intended to enhance capacity of countries to prepare for and participate in the negotiations, to strengthen capacity to discharge obligations under the agreement and to facilitate responses to the challenges arising from hemispheric integration. In this context they urged Member States to expedite national action plans and strategies.

Heads of Government welcomed the positive approach now evident with regard to the establishment of the Regional Integration Fund (RIF) proposed by CARICOM to provide development financing for adjustment within the FTAA context.

World Trade Organisation (WTO)

Heads of Government regarded the visit of Dr. Supachai Panitchpakdi, Director General of the WTO as timely given the imminence of the 5th Session of the WTO Ministerial Conference in Cancun, Mexico. They expressed deep concern at the failure of the WTO negotiations so far to effectively address issues of critical importance to the Region and other developing countries. In particular Heads emphasized the need for WTO members to give practical expression to the commitments undertaken at the Doha Ministerial Conference, particularly with respect to Implementation Issues, Special and Differential Treatment, access to low cost medicines and the work programme on small economies. In regard to the latter the Heads endorsed the Region's strategy for the 5th Ministerial Conference, including the convening by the Region of a meeting on small economies in the margins of the Cancun Conference. Heads endorsed the preparation of a Ministerial Declaration on the WTO process setting out the Region's aspirations and objectives in the WTO negotiations.

Heads welcomed the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Community and the WTO, which will provide for continued trade-related technical assistance and capacity building to CARICOM Member States to enhance their implementation of the Doha Development Agenda and to assist their harmonious integration into the world trading system.

ACP-EU Negotiations

Heads of Government remained concerned at the slow progress in the first phase of the negotiations for Economic Partnership Agreements between the African, Caribbean and

Pacific Group of countries and the European Union. They recommitted the Region to the maintenance and strengthening of ACP unity and solidarity and to making every effort to achieve ACP aspirations and objectives during the remainder of Phase I of the negotiations. They noted these were critical to the achievement of the aspirations and objectives of developing countries in both the ACP-EU and WTO negotiations.

Heads of Government commended the efforts to advance the preparations for the regional phase of the negotiations through the drafting of Caribbean Guidelines for Phase II of the negotiations.

SPECIAL SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

Heads of Government supported the proposal that the Special Summit to be held in Mexico at the end of November 2003 place emphasis on economic growth with equity, social development and democratic governance.

They also urged that the Special Summit provide the opportunity for leaders to exchange opinions and adopt common positions on the global situation.

PRESIDENCY OF THE 58TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Heads of Government heartily applauded the Minister of External Affairs, International Trade and Civil Aviation, Senator the Honourable Julian R. Hunte of Saint Lucia, on his election by acclamation to the Presidency of the 58th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. They recognized the regional nature that would be reflected in the President's cabinet, which was a fitting tribute to the Community on its 30th anniversary.

They also recognized that a representative of the Community would be at the helm of the premier international organisation at a time when visionary leadership would be required.

REGIONAL ENERGY POLICY FOR THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY

Heads of Government reiterated the importance of a regional energy policy which would address as its top priority security of energy supply and petroleum product pricing in light of their impact on the competitiveness of the Member States of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy. They mandated the Secretary-General to provide the Conference at its next Meeting, with an advisory opinion on access to natural resources, in particular, energy as provided by the Revised Treaty.

FOLLOW-UP TO THE NASSAU DECLARATION

The Nassau Declaration (July 2001) with the theme, 'The Health of the Region is the Wealth of the Region', established specific guidelines for achieving targets for regional cooperation in health as well as HIV/AIDS. Several activities have been undertaken in accordance with the mandates under the Declaration. Chief among them is the strengthening of the Pan Caribbean Partnership Against HIV/AIDS which has been involved with other agencies in successful negotiations for cheaper anti retroviral drugs, and accelerating care and treatment of people living with AIDS, as well as developing human rights and prevention programmes.

Heads of Government approved the establishment of the Caribbean Commission for Health and Development whose overall objective is to formulate strategies for assisting governments to more effectively manage and finance health and health care and to collaborate and share resources, regionally. The work of the Commission is being financed by the World Health Organisation (WHO) macro-economic Commission on Health and will be chaired by Sir George Alleyne, former Director of the Pan-American

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Health Organisation (PAHO), and recently appointed UN Envoy on HIV/AIDS in the Caribbean.

Heads of Government also extended congratulations to the Caribbean Nurses Association and the Regional Nursing Body for their activities associated with the year of the Caribbean Nurses under the theme, 'Nurses Lighting the Way to Professional Excellence'.

A WORLD FIT FOR CHILDREN

Heads of Government reiterated the value and importance of the children of the Community and placed high priority on ensuring that they have the opportunity to develop to their fullest potential. They recognised that in implementing the 'World Fit for Children Plan of Action', adopted at the United Nations Special Session on Children in May 2002, this will contribute to reaching the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). They endorsed the CARICOM Regional Framework for Action approved by the Eighth Meeting of the COHSOD and committed to the implementation of this framework.

THE CARIBBEAN ACCREDITATION AUTHORITY FOR EDUCATION IN MEDICINE AND OTHER HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Heads of Government agreed to the establishment of the Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and other Health Professions.

This Accreditation Authority will be responsible for accrediting in the first instance, medical training programmes offered at universities in the Community.

WEST INDIAN CRICKET

Heads of Government received a report from the Hon. Lester Bird, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, Chairman of the Prime Ministerial sub-committee on Cricket, and from the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) on preparations for the staging of the Cricket World Cup 2007.

Heads of Government agreed to establish a central organizing body at the Regional level to assist Windies World Cup Incorporated, the company established by the WICB to manage the event.

They accepted the invitation of Windies World Cup Inc. to name a high level representative to the Board of Directors that will govern the policy direction of the event. They welcomed the offer of technical assistance in staging the event extended by President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa whose country hosted the World Cup in 2003.

Heads of Government expressed their deep appreciation to outgoing President of the WICB, Reverend Wesley Hall for his contribution to West Indies Cricket on and off the field.

CRIME AND SECURITY

Heads of Government reiterated their commitment to address crime and security issues within the context of the approved Regional Crime and Security Initiative. They noted the success achieved by some Member States in their fight against crime.

Heads of Government committed themselves to the continued strengthening of national and regional capacity and in this regard placed high priority on resource mobilisation.

THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY DECLARATION

Heads of Government adopted a **Thirtieth Anniversary “Rose Hall Declaration on Regional Governance and Integrated Development”**, which included a decision in principle, to establish a Commission or other executive mechanism for furthering the implementation of Community decisions related to the CARICOM Single Market and Economy. A copy of the **Declaration** is attached.

THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT

As part of the Cultural Activities of the Conference and to commemorate the signing of the Treaty of Chauguramas in 1973, the Government of Jamaica hosted a Thirtieth Anniversary Concert which showcased the abounding talent and spirit of the Caribbean. Artistes were drawn from The Bahamas in the North through to Cuba and Haiti, to Suriname in the South, as well as from Jamaica. The event, hailed a true cultural extravaganza of celebration, was shared with the rest of the Caribbean via satellite. As Prime Minister, P.J. Patterson remarked, it was a fitting precursor to **Carifesta VIII** to be held in Suriname, 24 – 30 August 2003.

APPRECIATION

Heads of Government expressed gratitude to the Government and people of Jamaica for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements during the Twenty-Fourth Meeting of the Conference. They were particularly appreciative of the social and cultural activities hosted by Jamaica in celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the Community, that contributed in no small measure to the congenial atmosphere in which their discussions were conducted.

DATE AND VENUE

Heads of Government welcomed the offer made by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda for the hosting of the 15th Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference in that country in early 2004.

Montego Bay, Jamaica

5th July 2003