

**Welcome remarks by the Chairman of the National Drug  
Council at the Opening Ceremony of the Regional Training  
of the Counter Drug Intelligence Training School**

**Monday August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

**Kapok Hotel**

Your Excellency, Mr. Gerard Latulippe, High Commissioner of  
Canada to Trinidad and Tobago

Dr. Riyad Insanally, Country Representative of the OAS to  
Trinidad and Tobago

Mr. Carl A. Francis, Permanent Secretary, of the Ministry Of  
National Security,

Overseas facilitators and participants,

Members of the National Drug Council

Local participants, and staff of the National Drug Council  
Secretariat

Other Specially invited Guests

Representatives of the Media

Good Morning to you all

On behalf of the Members of the National Drug Council and staff of the National Drug Council Secretariat, I extend a warm welcome to this regional Seminar.

The establishment of the Regional Counter Drug Intelligence Training School, was first proposed in 2009 under my predecessor at the National Drug Council, Ambassador Learie Rousseau. Since that time, there has been extensive discussion on the logistics necessary to establish this school.

Additionally, there have been many changes to our National Security infrastructure, and a series of detailed discussions among various agencies, at both the regional and national levels. This naturally has resulted in the time lapse to fully bring this project to fruition. I can assure you however, that it has engaged the attention of the National Drug Council at successive monthly meetings.

Therefore to say that I am pleased that both the National Seminar which was held in Antigua and Barbuda a few months ago, and this Regional Seminar, being implemented now, is happening, would definitely be an understatement. As they represent concrete steps toward the realization of this project.

The National Drug Council and its Secretariat MUST publicly commend the fortitude and as we say in Trinidad and Tobago, the “Stick-to-it-iveness” displayed by Mr. Malyniwsky and his team who have truly been the epitome of patience and “grace under fire” as this has taken much longer than was originally anticipated.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, we continue to forge ahead with the development of this project and wish to assure the OAS and the Canadian High Commission that the National Drug Council and its Secretariat continue to view this project as an essential component of our drug control initiative.

I therefore wish to give CICAD the assurance that we remain committed to working with them to ensure that this project continues to be implemented.

Thank you for your kind attention and again, welcome to this important event.