



REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

MEETING OF MINISTERS OF CULTURE OF

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

BEING HELD IN BRAZIL

AUGUST 10-12, 1989

EMBASSY OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

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BRASÍLIA, DF

BRAZIL

Meeting of Ministers of Culture of Latin
America and the Caribbean being held in
Brazil, August 10-12 1989

August 10, 1989 (Thursday)

10.00 a.m. Opening of the Meeting
11.00 a.m. Remarks by the delegations present at the Meeting
(no more than 15 minutes each)

Remarks by the Honourable Mrs Jennifer Johnson, Minister of Youth,
Sport, Culture and Creative Arts of the Government of the Republic of
Trinidad and Tobago

(Opening with recognition of those present in proper protocol order)

Distinguished colleagues,

I bring you warmest greeting from the people of Trinidad and
Tobago.

This is a truly auspicious occasion; our meeting, all together,
for the first time in the history of the administration of Culture in
Latin America and the Caribbean.

Such a conference is long overdue and I welcome this opportunity
to congratulate the planners and the Government of Brazil for its
realization. I shall also make it clear that Trinidad and Tobago is
honoured and delighted to be able to include the Latin American countries
among the friends with whom we share cultural and artistic experiences.
The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, as a member of the Caribbean
Community, known as CARICOM, is committed to regional integration and
development in general and considers Cultural Literacy as a prerequisite
towards integration.

In moving towards the 21st century the Latin American and the
Caribbean as a multi-racial and multi-ethnic community must find logical
realistic and legitimate bases upon which to erect and establish their
identity among the nations of the world. Already the nations of the First
World, the developed nations, are drawing themselves together in
geophysical "blocks" on the basis of common ethnicity as well as high
technological status and common objectives in the capitalist world.

In 1992 Europe will form one "block." For Latin America and the
Caribbean, Cultural Literacy must be considered a major tool towards
achieving this goal for ourselves. Without a common ideological base
on which the population stand, a Latin American and Caribbean community
will forever be a vulnerable geographical entity, easily exploited by
the more integrated and developed nations of the world.

Latin America and the Caribbean, if it must survive among these giants dominating the global politico-industrial arena, must begin at once to decide for itself what criteria to employ in establishing true integration via -

- (1) its territorial identity and true geographical boundaries in the West;
- (2) its political ideology - democracy, socialism, communalism or some combination, some intelligent mix, of all three;
- (3) its developmental strategies for exacting from the "universe of goods and welfares" of the world the rightful plausible share required for its survival.

In a broader geographic and culturally appropriate merger of Latin America and the Caribbean, there must be sensitivity to the advantages to be derived by overcoming the language problem; consequently, there must be a POSITIVE action on our part to encourage our respective citizens (especially our youth) to take up the challenge toward an era of free spoken and written communication.

IN THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY, THERE IS A STANDING COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS OF EDUCATION AND MINISTERS OF CULTURE WHICH MEETS EVERY TWO YEARS. SIMILARLY, THIS MEETING OF THE MINISTERS OF CULTURE OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN COULD BE INSTITUTIONISED AND HELD EVERY TWO YEARS.

ADDITIONALLY, IT IS ALSO HOPED THAT BEFORE LONG, ALL COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN SHOULD BECOME SIGNATORIES TO A REGIONAL CONVENTION ON CULTURAL CO-OPERATION.

CARIFESTA V

It is in this respect I am pleased to inform this gathering that the Fifth Caribbean Community Festival of the Arts known as CARIFESTA V will be held in Trinidad and Tobago in August, 1991. This Festival is considered to be the definitive "get together" of Caribbean Culture and the Creative Arts planned to take place every three years.

One of the most potent forces for regional integration is the availability of opportunities for artists of the Region to interact and appreciate one another's work. CARIFESTA V is one such opportunity.

After CARIFESTA V, other Caribbean Festivals of the Arts are scheduled for 1994, 1997 and the year 2000.

The scale of the Festivals varies depending on the resources of the host country and the timing of the event. In accordance with the plan of action adopted by the Heads of CARICOM Governments' Conference in 1987,

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CARIFESTA V in Trinidad and Tobago will be a major multi-disciplinary Festival of the Arts.

Within a context of regional integration, a CARICOM Secretariat paper includes the following objectives of CARIFESTA:

- (1) to deepen the awareness and knowledge of the peoples of the Caribbean Region of the cultural aspirations of their neighbours by exposing them to each other's culture through creative activity.
- (2) to develop the content of our regional culture as well as its aesthetic forms.
- (3) to foster maximum people participation in the culture and the arts of the Region.

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago will soon be providing greater details on this important Festival of the Arts.

In conclusion, Trinidad and Tobago is committed to the integration process of Latin America and the Caribbean and we view Cultural Expression as a powerful instrument of regional integration and development, I hope that there will be opportunities to show one another our cultural manifestations as soon as possible.

Thank you.