

SPEECH OF H.E. FERNANDO PARDO, DEAN OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS
OF JAMAICA, ON THE OCCASION OF THE ANNUAL DINNER FOR THE
DIPLOMATIC CORPS, KINGS HOUSE, JANUARY 17, 2002.

GOVERNOR GENERAL OF JAMAICA, HIS EXCELLENCY THE MOST
HONOURABLE SIR HOWARD COOKE AND LADY COOKE

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND FOREIGN TRADE, THE HONOURABLE,
K D. KNIGHT AND MRS. KNIGHT

MINISTER OF STATE, THE HONOURABLE BEN CLARE AND MRS. CLARE

REVEREND DR. HOWARD GREGORY AND MRS. GREGORY

PERMANENT SECRETARY AMBASSADOR STAFFORD NEIL AND MRS. NEIL

DISTINGUISHED COLLEAGUES
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

I WISH TO BEGIN BY EXPRESSING, ON BEHALF OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS OF JAMAICA, OUR GRATITUDE TO HIS EXCELLENCY, THE MOST HONOURABLE SIR HOWARD COOKE AND LADY COOKE FOR THEIR CORDIAL INVITATION TO SHARE IN THIS MAGNIFICENT AND ELEGANT BANQUET WHICH IS A SPECIAL OCCASION FOR ALL OF US AS WE ARE ABLE TO SOCIALIZE WITH THIS COUNTRY'S HIGHEST AUTHORITIES AND PERSONALITIES IN AN ATMOSPHERE THAT, THOUGH FORMAL, IS RELAXED AND VERY PLEASANT.

YOUR EXCELLENCY

WE ALSO WISH TO PUT ON RECORD OUR APPRECIATION FOR THE DEDICATION AND EFFORT OF THE GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITIES WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE DIPLOMATIC WEEK WITH THE PURPOSE OF INFORMING US OF THE RELEVANT ASPECTS OF THE HAPPENINGS IN THE COUNTRY, AS WELL AS THE POLICIES BEING IMPLEMENTED IN THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FIELD AND THE SUBSEQUENT RESULTS.

THIS EXCELLENT INITIATIVE HAS BECOME AN EVENT OF THE GREATEST IMPORTANCE FOR ALL DIPLOMATS ACCREDITED TO JAMAICA. FOR THIS REASON THEREFORE, WE WISH TO FORMALLY STATE OUR APPRECIATION AND GRATITUDE FOR THE EXCELLENT ORGANIZATION AND QUALITY OF THE EXPOSITIONS.

AS A RESULT WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CORROBORATE THE GOVERNMENT'S AND COUNTRY'S INVOLVEMENT IN OVERCOMING THIS ESPECIALLY DIFFICULT SITUATION FACING JAMAICA THAT IS STRONGLY CONDITIONED BY EVENTS ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE, WHICH WOULD EXPLAIN THE INTENSE ACTIVITY UNFOLDING IN THE COUNTRY IN THIS AMBIT, CHARACTERIZED BY A NEW WORLD-WIDE POLITICAL REALITY.

THIS POLITICAL REALITY MARKED BY THE CURRENT GLOBALIZATION PROCESS THAT EXERCISES A STRONG INFLUENCE, PARTICULARLY ON THE ECONOMY, REQUIRES SPECIAL EFFORT TO MAINTAIN THE MACROECONOMIC EQUILIBRIUM IN THE PROCESS OF RE-CONVERSION SO THAT SOCIAL STABILITY IS NOT PUT AT RISK.

WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SEE SOME OF THE RESULTS OF THIS ZEAL, NOT ONLY IN JAMAICA, BUT ALSO IN OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE REGION THAT CONTRIBUTE TO THE SAID OBJECTIVE, FOR EXAMPLE, THE RENEWAL OF THE CARIBBEAN BASIN INITIATIVE, THE SIGNING OF THE TREATY OF COTONOU AND THE APPROVAL OF THE WAIVER GRANTED BY THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION AT ITS LAST MEETING IN DOHA, WHICH WILL PERMIT ITS FULL APPLICATION, THE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF JAMAICA'S REPRESENTATIVE ON THE SECURITY COUNCIL, AND THE ELECTION OF JAMAICAN CANDIDATES TO OTHER INTERNATIONAL FORA SUCH AS THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AMONG OTHERS.

IN ATTAINING THESE ACHIEVEMENTS, ONE NEEDS TO MENTION THE LEADERSHIP THAT JAMAICA HAS DEMONSTRATED, PUTTING ITS BEST INTELLECTUALS AND OFFICIALS IN FAVOR OF THE MENTIONED OBJECTIVES.

THIS BRIEF SPEECH DOES NOT INCLUDE OTHER ASPECTS BEING PURSUED TOWARDS THE SAME PURPOSE, SUCH AS THE DYNAMIC AND EXTENSIVE PROCESS OF REGIONAL INTEGRATION THAT JAMAICA IS INVOLVED IN. THEY ARE INDICATIONS OF THE INTENSE AND FRUITFUL INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OF THE COUNTRY AT THE END OF LAST YEAR. WE HAD THE PRIVILEGE TO OBSERVE THIS FROM THE FRONT ROW AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO SINCE IT HAS ENRICHED AND WILL FURTHER ENRICH OUR PROFESSIONAL HERITAGE.

FOR THAT REASON, AND FOR THE BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP CREATED DURING THEIR STAY IN JAMAICA AS REPRESENTATIVES OF THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES, WE REGRETTED THE DEPARTURE OF SEVERAL OF OUR COLLEAGUES WHO COMPLETED THEIR MISSIONS. THEY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO CONTINUE THIS INNOVATIVE PROCESS OF INTEGRATION THAT I WOULD QUALIFY AS UNIQUE DUE TO THE HIGH LEVEL OF COORDINATION

AND CONCERTED POLITICAL ACTION ATTAINED IN SUCH A SHORT TIME, THAT DIFFERENTIATES FROM SIMILAR PROCESSES.

THEY ALL LEFT JAMAICA WITH SADNESS NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF THE AFOREMENTIONED REASON BUT ALSO BECAUSE THEY MISS THE TRADITIONAL HOSPITALITY AND AFFECTION THAT JAMAICANS GENEROUSLY DISPLAY TOWARDS FOREIGNERS LIVING IN THE COUNTRY.

I REFER TO AMABASSADOR ALFREDO ALCORTA OF ARGENTINA; SERGIO DE SOUZA FONTES ARRUDA OF BRAZIL. RODRIGO CASTRO ECHEVERRIA OF COSTA RICA, ADOLF EDERER OF GERMANY; RAYMOND VALCIN OF HAITI; O. P. GUPTA OF INDIA; JOSE LUIS VALLARTA MARRON OF MEXICO; ERIK KLIPP OF THE NETHERLANDS; LAWRENCE CHEWNING FABREGA OF PANAMA; FERNANDO DE LA SERNA OF SPAIN AND STANLEY MCLELLAND OF UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

FROM HERE, WE REITERATE TO ALL OUR BEST WISHES FOR SUCCESS IN THEIR NEW ASSIGNMENTS.

WE HAVE ALSO WEL.COMED OUR NEW COLLEAGUES THAT HAVE REPLACED SOME OF OUR FRIENDS WHO HAVE MOVED AWAY, WHOM WE HAVE WELCOMED TO THE CORPS WITH THE TRADITIONAL AFFECTION AND FRIENDSHIP DIPLOMATIC LIFE GENERATES.

THESE AMBASSADORS AND HIGH COMMISSIONERS ARE: GONZALO FERNANDEZ OF ARGENTRNA, CYRO CARDOSO OF BRAZIL; CHRISTIAN HAUSMANN OF GERMANY; JEAN-GABRIEL AUGUSTIN OF HAITI; INDER VIR CHOPRA OF INDIA; BENITO ANDION OF MEXICO; FRANKLIN BARRETT OF PANAMA; RAFAEL JOVER Y MORA-FIGUEROA OF SPAIN AND SUE COBB OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

TO THEM AND THEIR SPOUSES WE REITERATE OUR MOST CORDIAL WELCOME AND OFFER THEM OUR SINCERE FRIENDSHIP.

I COULD NOT END THESE WORDS W'ITHOUT ALSO THANKING THE FORMER MINISTERS OF FOREICIN AFFAIRS, SEYMOUR MULLINGS AND PAUL ROBERTSON AND ALSO MINISTER ANTHONY HYLTON FOR THE SUPPORT THEY HAVE GIVEN THAT ENABLED US TO FULFILL THE OBLIGATIONS ENTRUSTED TO US BY OUR GOVERNMENTS, THEIR CONTINUOUS GOOD DISPOSITION TOWARDS US AND THEIR WISHES TO MAINTAIN CLOSE TIES WITH THE HEADS OF MISSION GREATLY FACILITATES THE WORK WE DO. THANKS FOR THIS GENEROUS ATTITUDE. WE ARE SURE THAT THE HONOURABLE K.D. KNIGHT AND THE HONOURABLE BENJAMIN CLARE WILL GIVE US THE SAME SUPPORT.

ON BEHALF OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS I ALSO EXTEND GRATITUDE TO THE ENTIRE STAFF OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WHO, ON A DAILY BASIS, WELCOME OUR REQUEST, ASSIST US IN OUR DUTIES AND MAKE OUR STAY IN THIS MARVELLOUS COUNTRY MOST PLEASURABLE.

YOUR EXCELLENCY

BESIDES EXPRESSING ONCE AGAIN THE SINCERE APPRECIATION OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS FOR YOUR HOSPITALITY AND THAT OF LADY COOKE, I WISH TO INVITE ALL PRESENT TO JOIN ME IN A TOAST FOR THE PROSPERITY AND WELL-BEING OF THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF JAMAICA.