

December 17, 2015

His Excellency Sergey Viktorovich Lavrov
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Russian Federation
32/34 Smolenskaya- Sennaya
Moscow.

Excellency,

It is with great pleasure that I write to you on the occasion of the 45th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries on December 17, 1970; this is indeed a significant milestone. I recall that Guyana was the first Commonwealth Caribbean country to establish such relations with the then Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Our hope at the time was that we could forge strong bonds between our two countries through mutually beneficial economic, cultural and other ties in the interest of strengthening international cooperation and promoting peace, justice and progress throughout the world.

Excellency, the decade preceding the establishment of relations between Guyana and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics was one of turbulence juxtaposed by the fragile hopes of newly independent states fighting for their right to self-determination. Following its independence on May 26, 1966, Guyana actively sought the friendship of those who understood the challenges faced by fledgling states in a world order that had been polarized by differing ideologies and geostrategic divisions.

Throughout the years the relationship between our two countries has been nurtured at every level and has now grown tremendously. Our cooperation in the economic, social and cultural fields has been strengthened with Guyanese benefitting particularly from the partnership in the field of education, through scholarships offered by the former USSR and in succession, by the Russian Federation. Graduates now occupy high profile posts in the government of Guyana as well as in the private sector. Our trade relationship, despite the geographic distance has also fared well with the presence of Russian companies in Guyana such as RUSAL.

Great strides have been made in removing barriers to closer ties through actions such as the abolition of visas between our two countries which will now allow for greater movement of people, increased contact and the opening up of new business horizons for our private sector. Cooperation in other areas such as health, fisheries, culture, and specialized training especially in the security sector has significantly contributed and continues to boost Guyana's development.

Excellency, as we move into the implementation stage of the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and a new agenda to tackle climate change, we would like to count upon our friends in the international community to achieve the goals set out in the agenda as well as the universal elimination of poverty, the promotion of human rights, and the preservation of international peace and security.

Most importantly, I would like to place on record, my Government's appreciation for the constancy of our bilateral relationship which has survived the evolving nature of modern international relations. In a world facing many global challenges, Russia has nevertheless extended its unwavering support to small states and developing countries. I also take this opportunity to commend the Russian Federation for its achievements in its own national development over the past 45 years.

Excellency, the Government and people of Guyana will continue in their endeavors to promote greater collaboration between our two countries for the mutual benefit of our peoples. I believe that Guyana and the Russian Federation can be proud of what has been achieved to date.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Carl .B. Greenidge
Vice President and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the
Cooperative Republic of Guyana