

Remarks on the 65th Anniversary of the Roosevelt House
Consul General James R. Moore
Curacao, March 13, 2015

Her Excellency Lucille George-Wout, Governor-General of Curacao;

His Excellency Ivar Asjes, Prime Minister of Curacao;

His Excellency Timothy Broas, Ambassador of the United States to the Kingdom of the Netherlands;

His Excellency Edison Rijna, Island Governor of Bonaire;

Distinguished ministers and members of Parliament;

Members of the diplomatic corps and honorary consuls;

Other distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

Welcome to the Roosevelt House to celebrate the 65th anniversary of the transfer of this remarkable building and the property – and to reflect on its significance – past, present, and future.

And again, a very warm welcome to Ambassador Broas on this, his first official visit to the Dutch Caribbean.

On March 15, 1950, then-Governor of the Netherlands West Indies, Leonard A.H. Peters, pronounced at the inauguration of the Roosevelt House:

“I now dedicate this building to the memory of the late great President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and I transfer this building to the Government of the United States as a

token of perpetual friendship between the people of the United States and the people of the Netherlands West Indies.”

That perpetual friendship, as Governor Peters so aptly called it, is manifested in the intertwined lives and destinies of the people of the United States and the people of Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao, Saba, Sint Eustatius, and Sint Maarten.

At the same time, our governments work together today to achieve shared goals in renewable energy, the rule of law, trade expansion, and numerous other areas.

On the 65th anniversary of the Roosevelt House, we rededicate ourselves to further strengthening the friendship between the United States and the Dutch Caribbean and to expanding and diversifying our collaboration.

We felt it would be fitting to commemorate this special anniversary with an exhibition that depicts the long history of our ties and the depth of our relationship. The result was the exhibition that you see this evening – and that you may view in the future at the Curacao Maritime Museum.

I would like to express our deepest gratitude to the Curacao Maritime Museum, especially its chairman, Mr. Henry van der Kwast, and its director, Mr. Leo Helms, and to National Archives of Curacao, particularly its director Mr. Max Scrivanek (Shree-wanek.)

Without the invaluable assistance and support of these institutions and individuals, this exhibition would not have been possible.

It is now my privilege to invite Her Excellency Governor Lucille George-Wout to the podium.

Thank you very much, Mr. Ambassador and Madam Governor for those eloquent remarks.

At this time, I would like to ask our guests to join in a toast to the perpetual friendship between the United States of America and the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

May we continue to work closely together as partners and friends to uphold the principles and values for which our nations and peoples stand and may we continue to achieve success in pursuing our shared objectives to the benefit of our citizens.

Please enjoy the evening and thank you very much for joining us.