

**Remarks**  
**Ambassador D. Brent Hardt**  
**UN Container Control Program MOU Signing**  
**August 20, 2012**  
**MHA, Police Training Facility, Georgetown, Guyana**

Minister Clement Rohee, Minister of Home Affairs

Mr. Khurshid Sattur, Commissioner General, Guyana Revenue Authority

Mr. Leroy Brummell, Commissioner of Police

Mr. James Singh, Head, Customs Anti Narcotic Unit

Mr. Floyd McDonald, Coordinator, Task Force on Fuel Smuggling and Contraband, Ministry of Home Affairs

Troels Vester, Regional Manager (CCP), UNODC

Ms. Karen Chapman, Deputy Head, Customs and Trade Administration, Guyana Revenue Authority

Good Morning:

The illicit trafficking of drugs through sea ports is a significant threat to our economies and security. The global drug trade weakens legal trade, destabilizes economies, and contributes to corruption. This

is why the United States has committed to multi-agency efforts to combat the narcotics trade. The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement's mission is focused on lessening the impact of the illegal drug trade and international crime through global partnerships. Today's signing of the Memorandum is a concrete step towards combating the international trafficking threat, and I would like to congratulate the Government of Guyana for the record-setting pace at which it has approved and finalized this agreement.

The United States is pleased to provide funding for this important United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) initiative to increase port security and prevent lawful maritime cargo containers from being used for unlawful activities, specifically; illicit drug trafficking, chemical precursors, smuggling of goods, tax evasion and potential terrorist actions. The United States supports multiple United Nations (UNODC) Container Control Program (CCP) initiatives throughout the world and commends the progress that CCP training and implementation has brought to countries as far afield as Morocco and Pakistan. This program

will help develop a global network that builds the capacity for Guyana's law enforcement bodies to combat transnational crime and drug trade.

I have had the opportunity to work with UNODC in previous diplomatic assignments, and I have greatly appreciated the capabilities and resources they can bring to bear upon regional and global efforts to combat illegal narcotics. Having had a chance to discuss this initiative in detail with Mr. Vester in recent months, I am very excited about the impact this program can have in boosting Guyana's counter-narcotics and other illicit trafficking efforts.

The United States, as a responsible member of the global community is very pleased to reaffirm its commitment to cooperate with UN member states in preventing and eradicating illicit trafficking. The United States commends the United Nations for moving forward so quickly to bring this program to fruition, and I congratulate the Government of Guyana for its clear and strong commitment to this vital

and innovative program. I look forward to following the implementation and future success of the Container Control Program.